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Marginal Column

By EPHRAIM AQUEBUR

"WINGS," a play by Alexander Korneytchuk, published in the last issue of the Soviet literary monthly, "Novi Mir," is of great political interest, comparable only to Ehrenburg's "Thaw" earlier this year. Korneytchuk, apart from being a gifted playwright, is also one of the highest officials in the Ukrainian Government and his views are authoritative.

●

THE framework of the play is fairly hackneyed, following the well-established pattern of the victory of the forces of light (in the form of Party District Secretary Romodan) over the forces of darkness (symbolized by Party Secretary Dremlyuga). The former represents today's progressive Party line and working methods, the latter is described as a reactionary bureaucrat who sticks to his routine, stifles criticism from below, and who is inefficient into the bargain. This, of course, is not new. But Romodan makes a number of unorthodox statements at least in relation to yesterday's Party line. He ridicules the lecturers who so frequently burden their speeches with quotations from the "capital work on Marxism written by the Doctor of Philosophy, Tovarish Nudnik." He takes a dim view of the lecturers on scientific subjects who have to mention Pavlov and "our patriotic science," even if speaking on the fight against the barrenness of cows. He tells Party Secretary Dremlyuga that he is very much mistaken in his assumption that "generals" exist in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (though he surely must know that this very expression was coined by the late Joseph Stalin). He tells his sister, Varvara, that far-reaching changes are in the offing intended to alleviate the situation of the kolkhoz as a whole ("at the present time it needs only to be able to stand on its feet and such burdens are imposed upon it that it falls down again") and the position of the small private plots cultivated by the peasants. Romodan tells Party workers that they are allowed to have an opinion of their own and may even talk back to their superiors.

●

ROMODAN would be a positive hero were it not for the unfortunate fact that he is not living with his wife and daughter. And when they meet in the third act, we also learn the reason. When Colonel Romodan returned from the war in 1945 his wife was arrested on charges of collaboration during the German occupation. This of course was not true, but what with the anonymous denunciations by informers and the local head of the Secret Police throwing his weight around (he is described as a Beria man, now arrested) and above all, the unwillingness of Romodan to take the side of his wife and to defend her to the end, Anna Romodan was imprisoned for many months. The Secret Police head even threatened her with the "concentration camp" (not the corrective labour camp!). And then the following scene takes place: Romodan: "I did not expect that they would arrest you. When I heard it, I went to the Central Committee and wept before the secretary. He phoned the Secret Police in my presence..." Anna: "What did he reply?" Romodan: "That this is very complicated... How much evil, pain and tears were caused as the result of the mistrust sown by this gang under the mask of watchfulness!" Anna (quietly): "They have wounded... they have wounded great and small alike. Thanks, our heartfelt thanks to the Central Committee. Never again shall this terrible nightmare return" Romodan: "Never again."

●

SO far, so good. The play has come in time for the Soviet Writer's Congress, (the first since 1934) now in session in Moscow, which otherwise signifies a return to Zhdanovism. The message of Korneytchuk's play is both obvious and welcome: Everyone will sympathize with Anna. It is more difficult to understand Romodan. How can anyone in the world, and a highly placed Marxist at that, be looking for villains ("bandits and gangsters") rather than for perfectly natural causes? How can a believer in historical materialism expect that "it will never happen again," relying on the good will and the praiseworthy intentions of a few people? It is an interesting question and certainly not a purely abstract one.

Jerusalem, December 28.

Cairo Claims 6 More 'Zionist Spies' Confess

CAIRO, Monday. — Another six "Zionist spies" have been arrested, it was officially announced this morning. The report said that all six had confessed to having transmitted information to Israel by way of France.

Three in Lebanon Condemned as Spies

BEIRUT, Monday (UP). — The military court trying the group charged with spying for Israel, condemned to death Mohammed Ahmed Bayoumi, the ringleader, Khamis Bayoumi and Isaac Tyianou. The latter two were sentenced *in absentia* and are said to be in Israel.

Two others were sentenced to 20 years in prison, four to 15 years, nine to 10 years, one to two years, and one to one month.

The gang, it was reported, was caught last June when the leader transported explosives and time bombs to Beirut from the seashore. The explosives were buried there by men from an Israel schooner, according to confessions.

The group, whose members all pleaded guilty, was charged with having planted a time bomb which killed five persons, bombed the UNRWA premises at Tripoli, the High Arab Committee in Beirut, and having attempted to dynamite the Iraqi Legation in the Lebanese capital.

Menderes Asks Wider Alliance for Mideast

LONDON, Monday (Reuter). — The Turkish Premier, Mr. Adnan Menderes, declared that the Middle East nations cannot feel safe "if they restrict their alliances to themselves," in a speech on his forthcoming visit to Iraq reported by Ankara Radio today.

He stated yesterday that no nation in the Middle East can feel safe "without the armour of NATO," the radio broadcast. Peace has become indivisible, and it must be stressed that it is self-delusion to think that nations "can survive by themselves."

"We would not feel safe even if a perfect and strong alliance of Middle East states were created in which every cog functioned without a hitch," Mr. Menderes said, urging a wider alliance with other nations.

'CONSTRUCTIVE' POLICY

BOSTON, Monday (INA).—The forthcoming Cairo trip by the Turkish Premier, Mr. Adnan Menderes, leads some observers to feel that it may result in a more constructive "Palestine" policy on behalf of Egypt, according to Mr. Mario Rossi, "Christian Science Monitor" correspondent at U.N. Headquarters.

He said that Egypt's links with Italy and Greece have improved recently, but pointed out that Turco-Egyptian relations must be viewed in a different category because the Turks often hold Egypt in contempt and Egyptians cannot forget that Turkey is a Moslem country that broke Islamic tradition and established a lay state.

A prominent Egyptian lawyer defending the young Jews accused of spying and sabotage for Israel asked for mercy when the special military tribunal resumed hearings today.

Hassan el Gedawy told the court, "These boys should be lashed and sent out. They were children who did not know what they were doing. They fell easy prey to adventurers and temptations and even blackmail."

He added, "The court should pass sentence on John Darling and Paul Frank, the ring leaders who escaped abroad and Max Bennet who committed suicide — not these children."

Gedawy asserted that the accused, Samuel Azzar, Philip Natanson and Elie Naim had pangs of conscience and deliberately prepared defective incendiaries. The lawyer refuted the prosecution demand for capital punishment and argued that the articles of law on which it was made did not apply to his clients. He asserted that the prosecution had not proved that the wireless transmission set which the three defendants had kept had ever been used to communicate intelligence to a foreign state.

The defence lawyer said that his clients were 18-year-olds "who played with fire and it burned them." He said that Natanson, Naim and Azzar were treated lavishly throughout 1953 until the middle of 1954. When Frank came to Egypt in June this year, he asked them to repay him for the good time they had had in France and Israel by setting fire to the Alexandria main post office. Frank's plan, Gedawy said, was calculated to lead progressively to more serious crimes by his subordinates, who were trapped under the threat of being revealed to the authorities for having gone to Israel.

Wireless Transmissions

Earlier the accused confessed in court to operating secret wireless transmissions to Israel. They said they did this under pressure from Paul Frank who threatened to denounce them to the Egyptian authorities for having visited Israel.

One of the accused, Victor Levi said, "I have confessed t everything I have done but I want the court to know I took the whole affair as fun. I am an Egyptian before being a Jew and at no time did I think I was causing harm to Egypt, my country. I will never live or die as an enemy of Egypt."

Another accused, Natanson, said, "I am no Zionist. Israel does not interest me."

Dr. Moshe Marzouk stated, "John Darling deceived us. I refused to cooperate with him as soon as I found out he had other motives in his mind."

Azzar declared, "I never meant to betray Egypt. I dumped an incendiary device in the sea rather than harm innocent people and my country."

According to Robert Dassan, "I never knew the real purpose of the group. I was only 17."

The other accused made no comment. The court adjourned until tomorrow. *(Reuter, UP)*

Israel Widens Credit To Turkey for Goods

NEW YORK, Monday (INA). — Israel has furnished credit facilities to expand trade and re-emphasize ties with Turkey, according to "The New York Times" correspondent from Ankara today.

(The amount of the additional credit is $3m., raising to $4.5m. Turkey's debt ceiling.)

The report said that Israel sought and received assurances that Turkey's new friendship with the Arab states does not imply impairment of Turco-Israel diplomatic and commercial relations.

By this move, Israel raises the amount which Turkey can owe her under the 1950 clearing agreement to enable Ankara to continue the importation of a sizable amount of cement construction material, electrical appliances and pharmaceuticals. Israel is hopeful, the report added, that Turkey can resume large-scale wheat and other exports next year.

Besides a clearly economic motivation, Israel is concerned with reaffirming friendship with Turkey at a moment when the latter's attention is fixed on the Arabs.

"The Israelis are resigned to the frequent proclamations for the Arabs by the Turkish leaders... but they are unwilling to have Israel's links forgotten altogether," it was stated.

The report noted Turkey's soft-pedalling of Turco-Israel cultural relations, and described the situation in which Israel fears the "combined influence of members of the Arab League on the Turkish orientation."

The report specially pointed to the November 29 statement of the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Fuad Koprulu, that no change in Turkish-Israel relations are contemplated and that Israel should be glad of bettered Turco-Arab relations as this might help relieve the Arab feeling of insecurity.

(Editorial, — Page 4)

BRITISH TURN OVER SUEZ AIRPORT

Egyptian troops took over Shaluf airports in the Suez Canal Zone from the British forces yesterday, Cairo Radio said last night.

Customs Duty Raised On Frozen Meat

The Coalition almost lost a vote last night when the Knesset approved administrative orders raising the customs duty on a number of products, including frozen meat. Hapoel Hamizrahi voted against the Government. There were only 29 members in the hall when the vote was taken—15 for and 14 against—the latter consisting of Mapam, Ahdut Ha'avoda, the Communists and all the Orthodox parties.

The vote approved the IL.2,500 tariff on other than rationed meat, which has been in force for some time. The former rate was 400 pruta a kilogram.

Mr. I. Guri, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the purpose of this and the other increases was to protect local agriculture, but he was challenged on this point by both Mr. H. Rubin (Mapam) and Mr. E.M. Genachovsky (Hapoel Hamizrahi), who wished to know who was being protected, since in any event there was not enough local meat.

Mr. Rubin also objected to Mr. Guri's h...ing quoted a letter to the Finance Committee from an official of the Ministry of Finance, claiming that only a letter signed by a Minister could be accepted by a Knesset committee. How could the Knesset give any weight to any promises made by an official other than a Minister, he asked.

Mr. Genachovsky charged that the increased duty on frozen beef discriminated against those who observe *kashrut*, since the rest of the population could buy meat brought in duty-free by sailors, or even locally produced pork.

NEW BRAZILIAN MINISTER CALLS ON SHARETT

Mr. Nelson Tabajara de Oliveira, the new Brazilian Minister, called on the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, at noon yesterday. The Minister handed to Mr. Sharett a copy of his letter of credence which he is to present to the President at a ceremony in Jerusalem today.

Israel's Accident Rate is Highest In World—Saphir

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

Israel has the greatest proportion of traffic accidents in the world, relative to her population and the numbers of motor vehicles, Mr. Y. Saphir, Minister of Transport, told the Knesset yesterday in the course of a report on road fatalities. He referred to the bus-train crash at Kurdani on November 22, which had claimed 14 lives, but this was not the main theme of his report.

Giving details of accidents, Mr. Saphir said that these had claimed 1,027 dead and 15,000 injured during the past five years. More than one in five of the dead were children under seven, and the proportion of people over 60 was also high. Figures for school-age children were considerably better, partly as the result of the intensive instruction in road safety precautions that had been instituted in schools.

Although only about 40 per cent of all accidents involved pedestrians, the latter class made up two-thirds of all fatalities. Bicycles and motorcycles also supplied a large proportion of the fatal accidents. About IL.8m. had been paid in insurance claims for road accidents in Israel in 1953.

He referred particularly to the large proportion of accidents in villages located astride main roads, where interurban traffic was liable to speed through and claim a large number of victims.

Speaking of collisions at level crossings, Mr. Saphir surprised his audience by observing that in 1952 there had been 26 accidents at unprotected level crossings, and another 26 at crossings protected by barriers; last year, there were 20 at unprotected and as many as 29 at protected crossings. (It emerged later that at the protected crossings, accidents had occurred when vehicles failed to see the lowered barrier and collided with it, usually before the arrival of the expected train).

Although level crossings were left unprotected abroad where train and road traffic was light, the Government had now bought automatic signals for installation at road - rail junctions. These are combined sound and light signals set off by the passage of the engine over the rails some distance before the crossing. (Unless the signal is actually sabotaged, the engine driver is also automatically warned in the event of the signal failing to function.) Railway bridges would be built at Natanya and Ramle, he stated.

He said that a public Road Safety Council was inaugurated last March, and had done valuable work. A good deal of thought had been given to speedier punishment of road offenders, road warnings and signs were being improved, and in some places special bicycle paths were being provided. Generally speaking, much more care would have to be exercised by both drivers and pedestrians.

Speakers in the debate were divided into those who considered the drivers to blame, and those who considered that objective conditions were responsible.

Mr. A. Ben Aharon (Ahdut Ha'avoda) claimed that Israel roads were not suited to heavy traffic "and the drivers are not wizards." Mr. Saphir had seemed mainly interested in the best means of punishing offenders after the event, he claimed, but this helped only little. He held the Government responsible for permitting a large, new high school to be built on the main road leading out of Tel Aviv, with no provision for the fact that swarms of children would arrive and leave by bicycle. Would safety precautions there have to wait until there was a terrible accident?

Mr. Shari (Mapam) said that traffic manners were bad, particularly in Tel Aviv, while Dr. A. Avniel (Herut) claimed that bus and truck cooperatives permitted drivers to work over-long hours, or to take periods of duty too close together, and that accidents then occurred as the result of excessive fatigue.

Mr. S.B. Sassoon (General Zionist) argued that there was no effective punishment for drivers who risked lives, except the withdrawal of their licences.

2 Soldiers Killed, 4 Hurt on Galilee Road

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Two soldiers were killed and four injured today when a military vehicle swerved on a bend and hit a rock near Kfar Sahnin in Lower Galilee. The two dead are Noah Kovalsky and Menahem Field. The injured soldiers were taken to hospital in Haifa. The vehicle was carrying 14 passengers when it overturned.

Jordan Demands Cause London Parley Rupture

The Anglo-Jordan talks on revision of the treaty between the two countries broke down because the Jordan delegation learned indirectly that Britain would not accept its demands, the Old City daily, "El Jihad," reported yesterday.

On Sunday, Acting Premier Husa'i Majali admitted that he had no details regarding the progress made in the London talks, and said that he was awaiting the return of Premier Tewfik Abu'l Huda from the British capital.

Mendes-France Wins First Vote On Admitting Germany to NATO

289 FOR, 251 AGAINST

PARIS, Monday. — Premier Pierre Mendes-France won the first of three confidence votes late tonight when the National Assembly approved the Paris treaty to admit West Germany into NATO by 289 to 251. The vote followed an appeal by M. Mendes-France to reverse the six rejection last Friday of the bill to ratify the four Paris pacts.

The Premier's stiffest fight lies ahead, however. The Assembly has yet to vote on the treaty to rearm West Germany. It will be the third confidence vote to be taken, and may not be taken up until tomorrow or Wednesday.

The second, which is expected to be passed as was the first, asks the Assembly to scrap all amendments designed to delay implementation of the treaties after they are ratified.

An adverse vote on either of the latter two would bring down the Mendes-France Government and would seriously impair the Western alliance.

The first vote was taken after the Assembly reconvened at 8.30 p.m. GMT (10.30 p.m. Israel time.)

Before the Assembly adjourned this afternoon, M. Mendes-France made a final plea for approval of the Paris agreements. He said, "The issue is the Atlantic Pact."

"The question is clear. Are we to preserve our place inside the Atlantic defence organization or are we to separate ourselves from our allies and let them organize the Atlantic Treaty Organization?"

Appeals for Support

The Premier appealed in his speech for the support of the 350 deputies who voted for his Government last October as an expression of approval of the negotiations on West German rearmament then going on in London and a promise to support the Government in its negotiations.

M. Mendes-France said that in no respect had the Government gone outside that mandate. But they had obtained improvements which included the British guarantee to keep troops on the Continent, the Saar agreement and an earlier consideration of an armaments pool.

It was true that juridically the Assembly could vote in favour of admitting West Germany to NATO while refusing to vote to admit a rearmed West Germany to the West European Union. But the Government had always regarded all sections of the four Paris treaties as indivisible.

The Paris agreements provided for less supranationality than the European Defence Community would have done yet retained some degree of supra-nationality providing a framework in which the organization of Europe could be carried on.

Colossal Importance

The British commitment to the Western European Union was of "colossal importance," he added.

"Are we going to throw away this British offer which may not be made again for decades?" he asked.

The Premier was applauded when he said, "As for the Soviets, how many chances have they had for months to initiate negotiations? They saw E.D.C. rejected here. That was the moment for them to speak up.

"Instead of accepting our invitation to sign the Austrian treaty the Soviet Government replied with threats.

"If we do not ratify the agreements they will say that we rejected them because we were afraid, not because we hoped for better understanding.

"To reject the agreements is to make a four-power meeting more difficult than ever. In case of rejection, there will perhaps be a two-power or three-power meeting, but France will not be there because we shall have left the Western alliance.

"In case of rejection, our credit with the United States and Great Britain will be reduced to zero. In Russia, it will be little more, once we have broken with our allies."

M. Mendes-France explained that there was no question of ratifying the Agreements and then using them as a bargaining counter in East-West talks.

(Continued on Page 2, — Col. 6)

Arabs to Air Israel Issue at Djakarta

DJAKARTA, Monday (Reuter). — Three uninvited guests arrived in Djakarta today to press the Prime Ministers of the Colombo powers to champion the Arab cause in North Africa and Israel.

The Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia (called the Colombo powers since a previous meeting in Ceylon) gather at the hillside resort of Bogor tomorrow, to work out an agenda for an African-Asian conference to seek a relaxation of world tension with special reference to the Asian and African regions.

Two representatives of the Association for National Freedom for North Africa, Hussain Ahmed, and Mohammed Yazid, told reporters when they arrived today that they hope to be able to sit at the same table as the Prime Ministers. The third uninvited guest was a leading member of the Moslem Brotherhood. He said that he would present the Asian Prime Ministers with a memorandum asking them to look into the treatment of Moslems in Israel.

The Prime Ministers of India, Burma, Pakistan and Indonesia held informal talks in preparation for the opening of the conference.

Mr. Nehru of India, U Nu of Burma and Mr. Mohammed Ali of Pakistan arrived by air today. The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, will fly in tomorrow. Mr. Ali said today that tomorrow's meeting could only be considered as a preliminary to the much more important Afro-Asian conference, on the agenda of which will be the question of anti-colonialism.

Accord Said Possible On Jordan Water

NEW YORK, Monday (INA). — Diplomatic quarters indicated that Mr. Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy, who will fly to the Middle East in January, had a "better than even" chance of getting an agreement on the Jordan River valley project, according to the Washington correspondent of "The New York Times" today.

Mr. Johnston had said that he will submit definite facts and figures on this trip, which will take in Tel Aviv, Amman, Damascus, Beirut, and possibly Cairo.

The sources stated that one reason for optimism is that there is more water available than either the Israelis or Arabs hitherto realized. This means, they pointed out, that all Jordan's irrigation needs could be met without cutting Israel's share of water beyond the "acceptable level." An American engineering survey has revealed that there is more water than was believed, and the Arab experts have agreed that the figures are based on a high water consumption per dunam.

The report said that Israel is particularly unhappy about international controls which might infringe on her rights but pointed out that "hopes bringing the Israelis around have been strengthened by indications that they have temporarily abandoned their demand for Litani River waters in the Lebanon. Without the Litani waters, Israel's dreams of watering the Negev would be impossible of fulfilment. Israel hopes to buy part of the Litani's water or exchange it for power."

The greater Arab willingness to accept the scheme is based on the fact that their own ability to use the Jordan waters is limited by geography, while Israel's ability is almost unlimited, and the fact that without international control, Israel would be in physical possession of the entire upper Jordan, while with control, there would be some limit to Israel's use of this water.

Israel Patrol Foils Negev Infiltrators

BEERSHEBA, Monday. — An Israel unit patrolling the border in the Western Negev today spotted a group of infiltrators and opened fire on them when they tried to flee. They succeeded in escaping leaving behind a dead donkey on which a motor was strapped.

Later, it was established that the motor had been stolen from the orange groves of Yad Mordechai.

Ten sheep, valued at IL.650, were stolen early yesterday morning from the Kochav settlement in the Northern Negev. Police believe that the theft was carried out by infiltrators who returned to the Gaza Strip.

Thirty-six irrigation pipes, worth IL.130, were stolen early yesterday morning from the vegetable field of the Tekuma settlement. Tracks of four men led to the Gaza Strip.

GALILEE GOVERNOR

Aluf-Mishne Michael Michaeli has been appointed Military Governor of Galilee. He replaces Sgan-Aluf Avraham Cohen, the Army spokesman announced yesterday. The appointment is to take effect on Saturday.

France May Produce Nuclear Weapons

PARIS, Monday (Reuter). — Premier Pierre Mendes-France presided over a discussion among some of his top Ministers yesterday on whether France should build her own atom bomb, it was learned today.

It was believed that the Cabinet would soon have to come to a final decision.

Some Ministers insist that France should make her own nuclear weapons on the grounds that this would be a sign of strength and would give France added weight in international councils.

Poland Makes Peace Move Toward Japan

TOKYO, Monday (UP). — Poland has made a peace overture to Japan through diplomatic channels, the Kyodo News Agency reported today.

The feeler for a peace treaty between the two countries was extended to Japanese Ambassador Kumao Nishimura in Paris by the Polish Embassy there, Kyodo said.

A Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on the Kyodo report, said that the question was brought up by the Polish Ambassador at a cocktail party recently during a conversation with Mr. Nishimura in the French capital.

He added, "It is natural for the Soviet Bloc to extend feelers to see how we are reacting to their propaganda."

The reported Polish overture was the latest move in an intensified peace campaign against Japan launched by the Communist Bloc recently.

Shigemitsu Assures Close Ties with U.S.

TOKYO, Monday (Reuter). — The new Foreign Minister, Mr. Mamoru Shigemitsu today had his first meeting with the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. John Allison, and was believed to have assured him that Japan would not change its basic policy of close ties with the U.S.

Sources close to the Government said Mr. Shigemitsu also pointed out, however, that Japan wanted gradually to improve her relations with Russia and China. These sources said the Foreign Minister also urged a reduction in Japan's share of defence costs.

The meeting was one of a series Mr. Shigemitsu has had with foreign envoys since taking office.

U.S. Said Reviewing Mid-East Policy

WASHINGTON, Monday (UP). — The American Zionist Council in one of its publications, the "Bulletin," said today that the Administration "is moving cautiously towards a review of its international policies," including those in the Middle East.

"We trust that rectification of the calamitous trend of its initiatives in the Middle East will be high on the agenda," the editorial stated. The change in the State Department, where Mr. George Allen takes over from Mr. Henry Byroade, provides a good opportunity to reconsider the proposals to supply arms to the Arabs, it was pointed out.

Noting the emphasis on shifting of military to economic aid for Asia, the editorial hoped that the same change would be seen in U.S. policies toward the Arab countries.

Security for Syria

A call for Syria to conclude defence pacts with the West and receive arms in return, was made yesterday by the Damascus daily, "A-Nahar."

In an editorial it appealed to the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee for an urgent debate on this issue in view of Syria's "need for stability and security."

Israel Insists Bat Galim, Crew Proceed to Haifa

POST Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel replied yesterday to suggestions made earlier in the week by Egypt through the U.N. authorities that arrangements be made for the return of the crew of the Bat Galim through the Mixed Armistice Commission.

The Israel answer transmitted through the chairman of the Israel-Egypt Mixed Armistice Commission demanded that the vessel, cargo and crew be allowed to proceed on their way to Haifa.

The question of a meeting to make arrangements hardly arises on the suggested basis, Foreign Ministry circles in Jerusalem stated last night. Israel could not be a partner to a proposal to release the crew only through the MAC since this would imply that the ship, the Bat Galim, had infringed on Egypt's territorial waters or had otherwise acted contrary to the Armistice Agreement.

Nothing of the kind had happened and the resolution passed by the Mixed Armistice Commission on November 19 had made this point quite clear.

Churchill May Go To Washington

WASHINGTON, Monday (UP) —Usually reliable sources said today that Prime Minister Winston Churchill is believed to be contemplating a visit here in January whatever the outcome of the voting in the French Assembly.

They understood that Mr Winston has been in telephonic communication with President Eisenhower, who is spending the Christmas season in Augusta, Georgia.

The sources pointed out that the Prime Minister has been so profoundly shocked by the action of the French Chamber last week in defeating the Paris agreements that he feels that even if the Chamber reverses itself today, the international situation requires his presence here for personal talks with Mr. Eisenhower and other high Administration officials.

Last week's action by the French Chamber poses the grave problem as to what extent France can be relied on in the future to carry out her obligations in defence of the West.

Yugoslavia to Accept China's Diplomatic Offer

LONDON, Monday (UP). — The Yugoslav Vice-President, Mr. Edvard Kardelj, was quoted today that his country intends to accept Communist China's offer to re-establish normal diplomatic relations.

The Sarajevo Radio, monitored here, broadcast a speech by Mr. Kardelj to the local Bosnian Party Congress. In it, he said in part:

"The Yugoslav Government intends to reply positively to the initiative of the Government of the Chinese People's Republic on establishing normal diplomatic relations between the two countries."

The move was part of a recent warming between world Communism and the separationist Tito wing which was marked by Moscow-Belgrade friendship gestures.

U.K. Reverses Stand On Aid to Belgrade

BELGRADE, Monday (Reuter). —Britain has reversed her decision, announced in June, not to join any aid programme for Yugoslavia for the year ending on June 30, 1955, according to an announcement by Vice-President, Lieutenant - General S. Vukmanovic, in parliament today.

Britain would give £2m. this year, he said, and the U.S. would provide $40m., as well as at least 850,000 tons of wheat to offset Yugoslavia's worst harvest since World War I.

According to a usually reliable source in Belgrade, Britain promised several months ago to alter her June decision and to continue aid if Yugoslavia and Italy settled their dispute over Trieste.

EISENHOWER TO RUN AGAIN, STASSEN SAYS

WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuter).—The Republican Party will call on President Eisenhower to run for a second term in 1956, Mr. Harold E. Stassen, Director of the Foreign Operations Administration said in a television interview yesterday. "And I believe he will be elected," he added.

Mr. Stassen campaigned for the Republican nomination in 1948 and again in 1952.

BODY RECOVERED

RAMLE, Monday. — The body of Israel Dobrushkin, 20, who disappeared last Thursday between the Lydda yeshiva and Safuriya, was discovered today by a police patrol in an orange grove along the route. Police suspect that the young man was killed by infiltrators. The body was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital.

Dobrushkin's parents live in Haifa. *(Hista)*

AFTER MIDNIGHT

The Chief Rabbi of Argentina, Amram Blum, arrived at Lydda by Air France late last night. He is here on a 15-day study tour of educational programmes.

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Social & Personal

President Ben-Zvi, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Sharett, and the Speaker of the Knesset, Mr. Y. Sprinzak, visited the exhibiting of Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University yesterday. They were received by Prof. B. Mazar, President of the University, Prof. L.A. Mayer, and Dr. N. Avigad.

Mrs. Chaim Weizmann, Dr. Joseph Burg, the Minister of Posts, and Mr. Joseph Serlin, the Minister of Health, were inscribed on Sunday night in the Jewish National Fund's Golden Book by the Brazilian Immigrants Association. The ceremony, held at the JNF Hall in Tel Aviv, was attended by Mr. Nelson Tabajara de Oliveira, the Brazilian Minister, and his First Secretary, Mr. Lyle Amaury Tarisse da Fontoura.

Mr. Zygfryd Wolniak, the Polish Minister, called on the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Mr. Haim Levanon, at the Municipality yesterday.

A reception in honour of Professor Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry who is in Israel at present as the guest of the Hebrew University, was given last night by the President of the University and Mrs. Mazar at their home in Jerusalem. Professor Pauling was also present at the reception given by the University at Beit Shalom on Sunday night for those attending the 16th annual meeting of the Israel Chemical Association in Jerusalem. The visitor will lecture (in English) on "The Structure of Proteins" under the University's auspices at 5.30 tonight, in Room 4, Science Faculty Building, Mamillah Road.

Mr. Maximilian Komoff, Director of the New York City Vocational Training Committee, called on the Minister of Education and Culture, Professor Ben Zion Dinur, last week. Mr. Komoff was accompanied by Mr. M. Peled, Inspector of Handicraft Instructions of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Friends and relatives of Dr. Menahem Zulay, former head of the Research Institute for Hebrew Poetry, will visit his grave today, the 30th day following his death. A bus will leave for the cemetery from the Schocken Library in Jerusalem at noon.

The Topaz Club at the Tadmor Hotel, Herzlia, will be closed tonight owing to a dinner party given by the diplomatic and consular corps. *(Advt.)*

Film on Negev Completed

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The fourth documentary filmed by the Government Information and Civic Education Services will be shown at 120 cinemas and 200 settlements throughout the country. It was announced at yesterday's preview of the film, "Negev," in the Or Gil, cinema, Jerusalem. The Minister in charge of Information Services, Mr. Z. Aranne, Ministry of Development officials, and film-makers from the Herzlia Studios all agreed that "Negev" was the best documentary of the series.

The three others portrayed Independence Day, the Huleh drainage scheme, and Israel fisheries (now showing in Tel Aviv cinemas). "Negev" features the rapid transformation of empty desert into a vast storehouse supplying factories with the minerals for glass, ceramics and fertilizer. "Negev" was directed by Mr. Adam Goldberg and was photographed by Mr. Marco Yakovlevitch.

43710 WINS REFRIGERATOR

An electric refrigerator — the first prize — was won by ticket No. 43710 in the drawing of the Jerusalem Merchants Association's Hanukka lottery which took place at the Ron Cinema yesterday. The second prize, a radio, was won by No. 45233. A bicycle went to the holder of No. 27171.

The full list of lucky numbers will be published shortly and the winners can collect their prizes at the offices of the Merchants Association, Sanpour Building, Rehov Ben Yehuda. *(Him)*

ON THE AIR

FIRST PROGRAMME

202, 246, 41.9 & 32.9 M.

NEWS: Hebrew: 7 a.m.; 1.30, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30 & 11.00 p.m.; Arabic: Programme (including News): 2 a.m. 2.15 and 6.30 p.m.

6.30 a.m. Service. 6.35 Exercises. 6.45 Musical Clock (R). 7.15 Melodies (R). 9.00 Close Down.

12.00 N. Music at Noon. 12.30 Housewives' Corner. 12.50 Light Music (R). 1.50 Break for Music (R). 3.50 Close Down.

4.00 p.m. Programme for Hospitals. 4.50 Light Music (R). 4.55 the Customer's Corner. 5.05 Agricultural Programme. 5.15 Language Corner. 5.30 Children's Hour. 7.00 Haifa Programme. 7.35 Sports. 7.45 Noah's Ark. 8.24 Bible Reading. 8.50 Nazareth. 9.05 Kol Yisrael Orchestra. Conductor: Karel Salomon. Soloists: Mira Salomon & Ruben Varga. "David and Goliath" (Kubmus); Andante moderato from Symphony No. 2 (Mahler); Violin Concerto (Mendelssohn). 10.30 Requests. 11.05 Close Down.

SECOND PROGRAMME

440, 224, 218, 407, 48.9 & 31.3 M.

English News: 1.45 p.m., 10.15 p.m. French News: 2.00 p.m.

IMMIGRANTS' HOUR: 6.35 p.m. Programmes for Yemenites. 6.50 French. 7.00 Ladino. 7.30 Yiddish 8.00 Close Down. 8.45 p.m. Rumanian 9.00 Hungarian. 9.15 Close Down.

KOL ZION LAGOLA: (32.5 M.): 11.15 p.m. News. 11.35 "This Also Happened." 11.50 Kol Zion Choir. 11.45 Easy Hebrew Conversation.

ARMY PROGRAMME: (44.6, 214, 226 & 202 M.): 6.30 Opening. 6.35 "Bow & Arrow." 7.00 Light Music. 7.30 "Corps to Corps." 7.45 Noah's Ark. 8.00 News. 8.45 Evening Tunes. 9.15 Desert Echoes. 10.00 Close Down.

B.B.C. "Radio" BROADCASTS (24.92, 31.55, 31.32, 25.50 M.): 6.30-7.00 News. "This England." Art Gallery.

LAW REPORT

The Jerusalem Post December 28, 1954

In the Supreme Court Sitting as Court of Civil Appeal

Before the President (Justice Olshan), Justices Silberg and Sussman.

1. Moshe Tennenholz, 2. "Shelev" Ltd., Appellants, v. Wolf Popilkitz, Respondent (C.A. 158/53).

Judgment in Criminal Case not Admissible as Evidence

The Supreme Court dismissed a counter-appeal and allowed part of an appeal against a judgment of the Tel Aviv District Court delivered on May 15, 1954 (C.C. 87/51).

The first appellant, while driving a lorry owned by the Shelev company, the second appellants, collided with the respondent, who was riding a motor-cycle, near Citrus House in Tel Aviv. The appellants were ordered by the District Court to pay the respondent IL.1,701 damages. They appealed to the Supreme Court against this decision, while Popilkitz counter-appealed against the amount of damages awarded.

The appellants were represented by Mr. M. Kritzman, the respondent by Mr. S. Landau.

Judgment

Justice Sussman, in delivering the judgment of the Supreme Court, after analysing the circumstances of the case, held that the District Court had not erred in concluding that the accident had been due to the first appellant's negligence.

In considering Mr. Kritzman's complaint that the District Court had accepted as evidence the fact that Tennenholz had been convicted on a criminal charge in connection with the same accident, Justice Sussman pointed out that the Supreme Court had already held (in C.A. 102/47 — Paskim B/63) that a judgment delivered in a criminal case between the Attorney General and the accused could not be used as evidence in a civil case brought by someone who was not a party to the criminal case. The fact that in that case the accused had been acquitted, whereas in the present case he had been found guilty, made, in the opinion of the Justice, no difference in so far as the principle was concerned.

If it were contended that the judgment in the criminal case should at least be regarded as *prima facie* evidence of the accused's negligence, then this contention, too, must be dismissed, the Justice held. Since the factual findings of the judge in the criminal case — based on evidence which he had heard and seen — must be regarded by the judge in the civil case as hearsay evidence, and thus not admissible. In the civil case the judge must base his decision on the evidence produced by both parties before him and on the conclusions which he himself draws, not relying on the conclusions of another, be he even another judge (Hollington v. Hawthorn, 1943, 2 A.E.R. 35).

Justice Sussman emphasized that the Court was well aware of the fact that there was a substantial difference between an acquittal and a conviction in the criminal case. It was quite clear that an acquittal in a criminal case would not stop the plaintiff from filing a civil suit against the defendant since, in the criminal case, he had not appeared as a party and could not plead his cause. The question would be asked, therefore, why conviction should not be used against the defendant who had been given every opportunity of pleading his case in the criminal court. The answer to this question, continued Justice Sussman, lay in the differences between the demands of criminal law and that of civil law on the matter of evidence: while criminal law allowed for a conviction on the uncorroborated evidence of one person, civil law demanded corroboration.

The judgment in a criminal case was therefore inadmissible as evidence in a civil case. But, Justice Sussman held, as the District Court judge had not based his decision in the civil case on the judgment in the criminal case, therefore the Supreme Court considered that the hearing of the inadmissible evidence could not invalidate the judgment.

In dealing with the amount of compensation granted by the District Court, Justice Sussman held that the lower court had erred in estimating the damages accruing to the respondent up to the time of the filing of the claim. It had been laid down by the Supreme Court that damages of this nature must be proved by the plaintiff, and if no satisfactory proof were forthcoming the judge was not entitled to estimate these damages but had to dismiss the claim. Since the respondent had not proved the amount of damage suffered by him until his filing of the claim, therefore, Justice Sussman held, an amount of IL.136 must be deducted from the total award.

The Court dismissed the respondent's counter-claim for increased damages on the grounds that while no denial was necessary from the defendant as to the amount of damages claimed nor of any allegation in connection with damages (Rules 87 and 115 of the Rules of Civil Procedure) the plaintiff, on the other hand, must prove his every claim.

Judgment given on December 17, 1954.

Urge Airing of U.S. Farm Expert's Ousted

WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuter). — Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat from Minnesota, today called for a full airing in Congress of the case of Mr. Wolf Ladejinsky, a U.S. Agricultural Attache in Japan, recently removed from his post.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson, announced that Mr. Ladejinsky, 55, who came here from Russia in 1922, had been removed for security and technical reasons. State Department officials said later that Mr. Ladejinsky was still employed by the Department and might be given another assignment.

Senator Humphrey said Mr. Ladejinsky's removal had raised a question whether it actually was an indication of a major change in U.S. policy. He said many persons had been "shocked" by Mr. Ladejinsky's discharge "in view of his exceptional background of understanding the serious political implications of land reform in the Far East."

Tel Aviv Faces Strike Threat

TEL AVIV, Monday. — A warning that several Municipal departments may be paralysed by a strike if the November salary of temporary Municipal workers is not paid promptly, was conveyed to the Mayor in a letter from the Municipal Employees Union earlier this week. Some 900 of the town's workers are temporary.

Municipal employees who adhere to the General Zionist Party have decided to join the Histadrut-controlled Municipal Employees Union, the secretariat of the local Labour Council was informed today. The secretariat approved the merger. Only the Herut-affiliated employees are still outside the general workers' union at present.

Only City-Built School Dedicated

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The only school to be completely constructed by the Jerusalem Municipality, Beri Katznelson school in Makor Baruch, was dedicated yesterday at a gathering of parents, teachers and some of the 500 pupils. It is a handsome, spacious block with a large dining-hall and kitchen. Next to it stand the old huts in which previously all the children were taught — in dark, cramped rooms which seeped with rain. As only nine classrooms of a planned 14 have been built, the other grades remain in the huts. During yesterday's downpour, a pond separated the buildings.

Mr. S. Strauss, the headmaster, noted that although lessons had begun in the new premises, the Municipality had not yet installed electricity, put up a fence, or equipped the kitchen. But the city could be proud of Beri Katznelson school. The intolerable conditions which preceded this new phase were recalled by Mr. A. Cohen of the Parents' Association. (The Ministry of Health ordered the school to be closed a year ago, but the closure was postponed as the city promised to transfer classes to new premises). Mr. Cohen thanked all the mothers who had demonstrated at th Municipal offices and spurred the city to complete the building. He also thanked the Histadrut members of the City Council for backing the children's claim to a decent school. (This was formerly a Labour trend school).

Parents and representatives of the education authoriti.s were impressed by the decorations executed by pupils under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Mordecai Gumpel, the artist.

Yesterday's Press:

US Booklet Soft-Pedals Facts

Commenting on the U.S. State Department's publication on Israel, "Habokeir" (General Zionist) says that because it is an official document, diplomatic language is used in order not to offend one side or the other. For instance, the Arab invasion of 1948 is not mentioned. Although such facts would certainly have offended the Arabs, the paper asks how else can subsequent developments, and Israel's apprehensions be understood. The booklet contains other contradictions: Israel is praised for its constructive work, but its enemies are to be armed by the U.S. although they openly admit the weapons they receive will be used against Israel.

"Zmanim" (Progressive) deals with the latest Egyptian move to further delay the Security Council debate on "Bat Galim" and stresses that Israel had demanded a debate on free passage in the Canal as a matter of principle, and not merely on the fate of one ship.

"Kol Ha'am" (Communist) says that Israel is to be occupied by the U.S. according to a blueprint published in the "Tribune des Nations." ("Tribune des Nations" is a French weekly edited by André Ullmann, a leading French Communist.) "Kol Ha'am" says the project outlined in "Tribune des Nations" will be thwarted by the patriotic anti-Imperialist united front here.

"Ha'aretz" (non-party) refers to a recent speech by Mr. Pinhas Lavon, Minister of Defence, and finds itself in agreement with many of the Minister's views on Israel security. The paper thinks however that security is in the last resort a political issue: as preventive war is impossible, and as an extension of our frontiers would only create a new refugee problem, it must be realised that Israel needs allies. "Ha'aretz" regrets that Mr. Lavon did not elaborate on this point and thus help make this basic fact clear to both the Government and the people.

"Al Hamishmar" (Mapam) criticizes the police for its lack of initiative and its inefficiency in dealing with the orthodox rioters in Jerusalem, while elsewhere in the country it displays a strong hand. Both "Davar" (Histadrut) and "Lamerhav" (Ahdut Avoda) comment on the Histadrut decisions on wage policy in 1955, the former in defence of the resolutions, the latter alleging that the decisions were taken "over the heads of the workers."

"Davar" and "Omer" (Histadrut) turn to their annual bugbear: New Year's Eve ("Sylvester") celebrations. Both papers make it clear (the latter in an editorial) that it is a major abomination and maintain that we cannot afford to be as tolerant with regard to "Sylvester" as in the past.

At the Cinema

THE cleverest satire seen on our screens for some time is a film based on a Mark Twain story, "The Million-Pound Note" (Armon Haifa). A young American (Gregory Peck), stranded in London without a penny, is given a £1,000,000 Bank of England note for one month by two eccentric brothers who are trying to test human honesty. On the strength of this note, which no one, of course, can change, Peck obtains free service in restaurants, unlimited credit from the best hotel and most expensive tailor, is received into London society and supplied with cash by the American Embassy. The temporary mislaying of the note causes an immediate volte-face. Peck eventually returns the note to its owners and departs with a bride and thousands won on the Stock Exchange. Set in the London of 50 years ago this neat comedy of character and situation gains verisimilitude through a predominantly English cast and by being sufficiently removed in time.

Sentimental Comedy

THREE models, represented by Mesdames Bacall, Grable and Monroe, set out to acquire rich husbands for themselves. That is the theme of "How to Marry A Millionaire" (Amphitheatre Haifa) in Cinemascope. They rent a furnished luxury flat to serve as the bait. But they are just three goodlooking girls, too ignorant and narrow to make the catch. So Betty Grable, escaping from a married man afraid of his reputation, ends up with a forest ranger; Marilyn Monroe, after being taken in by a hotel clerk, with a *schlemiel*; and Lauren Bacall, the "brain" of the trio, discovers, only after marriage that her mechanic is actually a millionaire. The trouble with the film is that its denouement is sentimental. A more cynical conclusion would have been an adjunct to a script which is on a higher level, more caustic and witty than usual and ably brought across by William Powell, as the sensible middle aged man from Texas. Recommended. *H.*

Wide-screen Kipling

"KING of the Khyber Rifles" (Orion, Zion). is a coarse imitation of Kipling which tries to make up for the missing suspense and plot with a silly racial twist: a half-caste could never have won a Queen's commission, to begin with. Tyrone Power is almost too well cast as the swarthy, slightly obese Anglo-Indian. Michael Rennie's general cuts a far better military figure. Some footage seems to be missing at the end, or is it that 20th Century Fox didn't believe that an Eurasian could marry a general's daughter?

Judgment about Cinemascope has to be reserved. It has brought us some wonderful panoramic shots (Mt. Blanc and Marilyn Monroe's full length, for instance), but it often happens that the corners are rather empty or, like in a three ring circus, there is far more action than the spectator can take in. A style to suit the wide-angle camera will, no doubt, be developed in time. *Th. F. M.*

JERUSALEM CINEMAS

At 3.30, 6.30 and 8.30 p.m.

ARNON: Stars of the Russian Ballet.
EDEN: Lili 2nd week.
EDISON: Abbot and Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
ORGIL: I'll See You in my Dreams.
ORION: King of the Khyber Rifles.
ORNA: The Juggler.
RON: A City on Trial.
STUDIO: The Angel with the Trumpet.
TEL OR: One Minute to Zero.
ZION HALL: L'Affaire Maurizius.

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Subscription Concert No. 1
Season 1954/55
Thursday, Dec. 30, 1954, at 8.30 p.m.
Conductor:
MICHAEL TAUBE
Programme:
Concerto Grosso in la-minor, Vivaldi; *Piano Concerto in si flat major No. 830*, Mozart; *Little Suite (First Performance)*, Boskowitz; *Symphony No. 5*, Schubert.
Soloist:
MENACHEM PRESSLER

Subscription and single tickets obtainable at the office: Rechnitz Ramat Gan, 97 Reh. Bialik; "Hakol-Lanoar," 51 Reh. Bialik; Blumenfeld, 21 Reh. Bialik; Dov Bailin, Tel Aviv, 67 Allenby Rd.
Buses: Nos. 56 and 61

Top Show By Otto Graham

CLEVELAND, Monday (UP). —Otto Graham wound up his nine-year professional football career with perhaps his greatest performance yesterday by throwing three touchdown passes and scoring three himself to lead the Cleveland Browns to resounding upset 56-10 victory over the Detroit Lions for the National League championship.

Parry O'Brien Named Athlete of the Year

LOS ANGELES, Monday (UP). — Parry O'Brien Jr., the only man in the world ever to toss the shot beyond 60 feet, was named Southern California Athlete of the Year for 1954 by the Helms Athletic Foundation.

The former University of Southern California weight star was selected by the Helms Board which also considered four other top stars of 1954: National diving champion Patricia McCormick; Bob Lemon, star pitcher of the Cleveland Indians; quarterback Norman Van Brocklin of the Los Angeles Rams, and Jack Ellena, All-America tackle on UCLA's National championship football team.

O'Brien set the world's record for the shotput of 60 feet, 10 inches on June 11, one of three times he sent the iron ball beyond the 60-foot mark.

The Santa Monica, California athlete was national inter-collegiate champion in 1952 and 1953, and from 1951 through 1954 he was national A.A.U. champion. In the Helsinki Olympic Games he captured the shotput with a toss of 57 feet, 1-¼ inches, an Olympic record.

O'Brien is now serving in the Air Force and will receive his award as athlete of the year when he returns home early in 1955. (Parry O'Brien also appeared in exhibitions in Israel during the last Maccabiah).

Glider Pilot Dies

ST. MARY DE PROVENCE, Monday (Reuter). — Bertrand Dauvin, 20-year-old Glider pilot, died yesterday when his glider crashed into a hill-top near here, during a world record bid. He had spent nearly 48 hours in the air, and was only eight hours and a few minutes short of the world endurance record for single-seater glider. He had spent Christmas in the air, after taking off on Christmas Eve.

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ever shown in Israel.
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TOP HITS:
The famous ballet — Carmen Clavel
Raymonde Marcoud — Air Trapese
Dam Bros — Wire Balances
Joerg Samann — Illusionist
The Ahlstos — Jockey Riders
The Gragos — Perchists
and many other attractions
ZIRATRON - RAMAT GAN
Rishon-le-Zion Tifereth Cinema
Dec. 31, 7.30 p.m.

U.S. Leads 2-0 In Davis Cup

SYDNEY, Monday (Reuter). — The United States, challenging for the fifth successive year, led Australia, holders since 1950, by two matches to nil on the first day of the Davis Cup challenge round match here today.

A world record crowd of 28,500 saw Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas out-general the young Australians in a day of pressure tactics. Trabert beat Lewis Hoad, 6/4, 2/6, 12/10, 6/3, and Seixas, former Wimbledon champion, beat Ken Rosewall, 8/6, 6/3, 6/4, 6/3, to gain his first in eight matches against the Australian.

In the doubles tomorrow, Trabert and Seixas will meet an Australian pair yet to be named. The United States needs only one more win in the three remaining matches to regain the trophy for the first time since 1949. It has met Australia in the final every time since 1938 (apart from 1940-45, when there was no competition).

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We have pleasure in announcing the opening of the above shop at No. 4, HARAKAFOTH SQUARE, on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1954, for the convenience of residents of Western Carmel.
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(Bus Lines 4, 5, 6, 12, 22, 61, 62.)

OVERSEAS VISITORS, please note:
As from December 23, 1954, the
WIZO TOURIST BUREAU
has been transferred to
WIZO Club, 91 Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv
and will be pleased to welcome members and friends for arrangements of tours and visits to
WIZO INSTITUTIONS
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YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A TALK ON
"INCOME TAX & THE CITIZEN"
by Mr. H. Sanderson
Assistant Director, Department of Customs
on MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1955, at 8.15 p.m. at the KEREN HAYESOD HALL, 53a Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv.
Questions from the floor will follow.
(In cooperation with the Prime Minister's Information Office)

Where to go
★ Symposium:—
"The Arming of Germany and the Position of Israel"—Hebrew University, Ratisbonne Building, 8.15 p.m.
★ Lecture: —
"Problems of the Civil Service"; D. Roselio, Civil Service Commissioner. Auspices of Israel Institute of Public Administration; Beit Habe'ulom, Rehavia, 6 p.m.
JERUSALEM
★ Exhibitions:—
"Conquest of the Desert" permanent exhibition at the former Israel pavilion of the International "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition, 10-1, 4-6 p.m.
Ceramics, Mrs. F. Reiss and pupils. Y.M.C.A. 9-1, 4-7.
Department of Antiquities, special exhibition: Excavations of a Cana'anite Temple on the seashore of Nahariya (XVIIIth-XVth centuries B.C.E.). 28 Rehov Shlomo Hamelech. Open 9-1
"Hommage a Matisse."—"Master drawings" Exhibit of the month: Woven tapestry, Ferzia, Middle Ages: Bezalel Museum, 9-1, 4-6.
★ Tours:—
Hebrew University conducted tour new Administration Building, King George Ave., opposite Terra Sancta, 10 a.m.
★ Film Shows:—
Keren Hayesod, for tourists and visitors, 11.30 a.m.
★ Library:—
American Library and Reading Room, U.S. Consulate, Mamilla Rd. Entrance free, 9-1; 3-6.
TEL AVIV
★ Exhibitions:—
Paintings by "The Independents" Adam, Wiesenfeld, Herouti Gallery, Shulman, Katz Art Gallery, 97 Dizengoff Road, 10-1, 3-7.
1) Jacob Wechsler, recent oil paintings, 1954. 2) Drawings by Masters of the Italian Renaissance (reproductions). Open daily 10-4; Fridays, Saturdays 10-1; Sundays 4-10 p.m. — Tel Aviv Museum, Victor Marchese, Argentine Sculptor, E.O.A. House (10-12; 6-8).
★ Theatres:—
Habimah, "Hedva And I", Habimah, 8 p.m. (Histadrut Veterans).
"The Man Who Came to Dinner," Chamber Theatre, Mograbi, 8 p.m.
HAIFA
★ Recorded Concert:—
Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, Schumann's Carnival, Brahms' Symphony No. 3, Pevsner Hall, 8.15 p.m.
GEDERA
★ Theatre:—
"Casablan", Chamber Theatre, 8 p.m.
HADERA
★ Theatre:—
Habimah, "The Caine Mutiny", 8 p.m.
RAMAT GAN
★ Ziratron:—
Josephine Baker with a grand Circus Revue, 3, 6.30 & 9.30 p.m.
★ Theatre:—
Do-Re-Mi, "Blues from Istanbul," Rama Hall, 8.15 p.m.

Farewell to 1954 at Pross'...
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Today's Post Bag

THE WEATHER

FORECAST: Intermittent showers with temporary breaks. Rain is expected to strengthen towards evening and during the night.

	*A	B	C	D
Mt. Cana'an	90	—	9	4
Tiberias	73	10	17	16
Haifa Port	83	11	15	14
Natanya	90	11	15	14
Tel Aviv Port	94	13	16	15
Lydda Airport	92	9	15	15
Jerusalem	89	7	10	9
Beersheba	93	—	14	14
S'dom	—	—	—	—
Eilat	37	9	20	19

*A) Humidity at 3 p.m. B) Minimum temp. C) Maximum yesterday D) Maximum temp. expected today

• • •

FOR SELLING to the Ministry of Posts six fire extinguishers at a price "exceeding fair profits," the Anti-Profiteering Tribunal in Tel Aviv fined yesterday Benyamin Goldberg, owner of the "Hamechabe" factory, IL.500.

• • •

100 NEW houses have been completed by the Ministry of Labour and the Warburg Fund to replace huts in the Benyamina *ma'abara*.

• • •

THE TELEPHONE exchanges of the three branches of the Tzrifin Government Hospital, are now: Rishon LeZion, 333; Tel Aviv, 4010; Ramle, 141.

• • •

FOR OPENING his shop on the Sabbath and on holidays, Mr. Harry Gutman, owner of a buffet on King David Street, was fined IL.20 by the Jerusalem Municipal Court yesterday. A total of 30 vendors and grocers were fined between IL.2 and IL.7 for selling goods without permits and for keeping their shops open after 7 o'clock at night.

• • •

FOR BEING in possession of four inaccurate weights, including one of two kilograms eight grams short, Michael Atias, owner of a grocery in Jerusalem's Baka'a quarter was fined IL.100 yesterday by Jerusalem Magistrate J. Weiner. A IL.75 fine was imposed by the Magistrate on David Dodi, 40, owner of a greengrocer's shop in Jerusalem's Commercial Centre, who was found in possession of a kilogram weight which lacked 17 grams.

• • •

ISRAEL IS TAKING the second place as a stamp exporter to the U.S., the Philatelic Service announced. Israel stamps also represent an important philatelic potential in other countries.

Eshkol Sees More Money From UJA

Larger totals are expected in next year's United Jewish Appeal campaign, Mr. Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance, told a meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr. Eshkol, in reporting on his visit to the U.S. from which he returned on Sunday, said that there was a definite advance in the Development Bond Drive.

Mr. Eshkol spoke of his discussions with the directors of the Hadassah Organization in the U.S. in connection with the financing of their activities in Israel.

The Directorate heard a detailed report by the Minister on the district settlement programme.

It was decided to invite representatives of the Histadrut and Agency workers to a meeting on Thursday to discuss implementation of a decision of the Executive to equalize wages of Agency and Government workers.

Our Labour Correspondent adds that the negotiations on bringing up the salaries of Jewish Agency employees to the Civil Service level have been proceeding for nearly three years. One of the difficulties has been the difference between the Agency and the Government systems of grading, and the problem of whether to adopt the Government scales as they stand, or raise the pay of Agency officials to the level of those with similar functions in the Civil Service, while maintaining the old grading method.

Electric Network In Negev Spreads

BEERSHEBA, Monday. — The first electric wiring system in a Negev immigrant settlement was installed today in Yahini, in the Northern Negev. An electrical network is now being installed in 39 other Negev immigrant settlements. The work is being financed by the Development Budget of the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Jewish Agency.

Donkeys Recovered

MIGDAL ASHKELON, Monday. — Three donkeys, stolen by marauders from a settlement in the South on Friday night, were recovered the following day by a police patrol near the Gaza Strip demarcation line.

Police followed the tracks of three men who were seen near the border abandoning the donkeys before crossing the lines.

SUDDEN DEATH OF CLERK

Mr. Moshe Reinbach, 57, a clerk in the Ministry of Justice in Jerusalem, died yesterday morning a few minutes after reporting to work in the Courts Building. He collapsed in the corridor of the building and was dead by the time he was brought to Hadassah Hospital. It is believed that he died of a heart attack. *(Itim)*

Bernstein's Plan For Stable Prices

While experience has shown that price control does not prevent a rise in prices, the Government will not balk at importing commodities, if it becomes apparent that the supply of goods is not equal to demand. This statement was made by Mr. Peretz Bernstein, Minister of Commerce and Industry, in an address on "The Stabilization of Prices" broadcast over Kol Yisrael last night.

Public appreciation of the danger of inflation has been slow to form, Mr. Bernstein noted, but Government efforts to bring about price stability have recently found a positive echo in the community. The present balance of supply and demand in the country presents an opportunity for halting the price spiral, which has risen steadily since 1940, and this opportunity must be exploited.

Degeneration in the quality of goods, the price of which may remain nominally stable, constitutes yet another factor in the inflationary spiral, Mr. Bernstein stated. To meet this danger, the Government will maintain control over the quality of goods and will use every means at its disposal to see that this control is enforced.

The creation of healthy money will enable us to increase exports and will encourage savings which in turn will be used as creative capital. Israel's economy suffers because of an unwillingness to save, the Minister noted.

The Government's budgetary policy must be geared towards a stabilization of prices but the aid of the community is a necessary factor in achieving this end, Mr. Bernstein said.

'Israel-Arab Peace Depends on U.S., U.K.'

LYDDA AIRPORT, Monday. — Mr. Richard Crossman, M.P., said on arrival here today that he did not think there would be any improvement in Israel-Arab relations unless Britain and the U.S. take the initiative to that effect. He came by El Al with his wife for a 10-day visit upon the invitation of the Histadrut.

Mr. Crossman stated that during his visit he intended to collect information which would help him discuss the Cairo "spy" trial with the Egyptian Premier. He expects to visit Egypt following a two-day tour of Jordan after his visit in Israel.

Mr. Crossman went on to say that Egypt was the only country in the Middle East strong enough to come to terms with Israel, provided she wishes to do so. He added that the solution of the Suez Canal dispute could only follow a general settlement between Egypt and Israel. Egypt was the only country which championed progress and was thoroughly pro-Western, he declared.

He expressed his opposition to arming the Arab states and added that, if Arabs are given arms, Israel should get her share, too.

The visitors are staying in Rehovot as guests of Mrs. Chaim Weizmann. *(Itim)*

PRESIDENT HONOURED BY RAMAT GAN

RAMAT GAN, Monday. — The honorary citizenship of Ramat Gan will be bestowed on President Ben-Zvi, the Municipal Council decided today. Congratulations to the President on his 70th birthday were voted, as well as to Mr. Y. Gruenbaum, the veteran Zionist leader, who is 75.

Mrs. Sara Mirkin was approved as the new Councillor for the General Zionists, to replace the former Deputy Mayor, Mr. Yona Eytan, who has resigned. By 10 votes to five, Mr. Moshe Federman, General Zionist and Mr. David Meimedovitz, Herut, were elected Deputy Mayors in place of Mr. Eytan.

Maccabi, Hapoel Still at Odds

TEL AVIV, Monday.—Hopes of ending the quarrel between the Maccabi and Hapoel sports organizations were shattered today, when representatives failed to come to an agreement at what was expected to be the final meeting in the conciliatory talks between the two groups.

Hapoel representatives turned down Maccabi's suggestion for an agreement on the election of a joint board in place of normal elections. They claimed that this plan would give Maccabi a representation on the board out of proportion to their actual strength.

Earlier this month, Maccabi representatives had walked out of a meeting of the Football Federation just before the election of a new board.

CHURCHILL THANKS BRIGADE

A cable has been received by Mr. Meir Argov, M.K., from Sir Winston Churchill, thanking him for the message of congratulation on his 80th birthday on behalf of the men of the Jewish Brigade Group which fought in World War II as part of the British forces.

Sir Winston's cable ran as follows:

"I am so much obliged to you for your very kind token of goodwill on my birthday. Winston Churchill."

RATION NEWS

Special Meat Ration for Christians in Jerusalem: 100 gr., Tav Bet 6. Available at: Cabana, Rehov Maimon; Briut, Princess Mary; Pozen-Fuchs, Julian's Way; Anias, King George, cor. Rehov Hatavor.

JERUSALEM: Margarine: 300 gr., Nun 27, temp. 9. Oil: 400 gr. (incl. 140 gr. olive oil), Nun 28, temp. 1. Cornflour: Aleph cards, 400 gr., no coupon, temp. 25. Poultry for invalids: 750 gr., Med. Assp. card dated Dec. 26.

TEL AVIV: Poultry for expectant mothers: 750 gr., 13; 750 gr., 12; for elderly persons, 500 gr., Mem Heh 24; for invalids: 500 gr., Hei Aleph 3, Het Bet 12. Pulses: 100 gr., Tel Aviv: 200 gr., Southern Dist., no coupon. Lentils: 300 gr., no coupon, temp. 7. Margarine: 300 gr., Nun 27, temp. 2.

Mt. Carmel Gets Phone Exchange

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA, Monday. — Some 1,000 residents on Mt. Carmel, many of whom have been waiting for almost 10 years for telephone service, will receive telephones within the next three months as the new Mt. Carmel automatic exchange, which was officially opened here today, reaches full capacity.

A few minutes after noon, the Minister of Posts, Dr. Joseph Burg, put through the first call from Mount Carmel to the Mayor, Mr. Abba Khoushy at the Town Hall on Hadar Hacarmel. In the initial conversation, Dr. Burg hailed the exchange as a milestone in the further development of an already modern city.

Speaking at the formal opening ceremony of the new exchange and a post office housed in the same building, the Minister told the audience that this was part of the communications development of the Haifa Bay area and surroundings, including Acre, Nahariya, Shavei Zion, Meona and Rosh Hanikra.

The new installation has a capacity of 2,000 lines, with a possibility of future expansion to 6,000. At present it serves 1,000 subscribers, 400 of whom were formerly accommodated by the two temporary Mt. Carmel exchanges now closed down. Residents of Hadar will also benefit as 600 subscribers have been transferred from the Hadar to Mt. Carmel—releasing these lines for new subscribers.

Also present at the ceremony were the Director General of the Ministry of Posts, Mr. H. Ben-Menahem, and Mr. J. Rehavia, Director of the Telephones Department. The Mayor, Mr. Abba Khoushy and Deputy Mayor, Mr. Nussbaum, came from the Town Hall immediately following the opening telephone conversation.

B. G. WANTS TO SEE YA'ARI, TABENKIN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Reports that Mr. David Ben Gurion had invited Mr. Yitzhak Tabenkin, the Kibbutz Hameuhad leader, for a man-to-man talk on topical problems were confirmed in generally informed quarters here today. Mr. Ben Gurion has also asked Mr. Meir Ya'ari, of Hakibbutz Ha'artzi to come and see him for a similar talk. Neither Mr. Tabenkin nor Mr. Ya'ari has as yet notified their acceptance of the invitation.

After Mr. Ben Gurion's speech at the Histadrut Council meeting in Petah Tikva last week, observers believe that the "Grand Old Man" was seeking to form a Labour Zionist Front for the coming elections. An approach to Hapoel Hamizrahi is therefore expected after the interviews with Mr. Tabenkin and Mr. Ya'ari have taken place.

It is believed that to forestall this challenge "Panim el Panim," the new illustrated weekly which made its appearance last week, published an interview in which Mr. Ben Gurion was alleged to have bitterly attacked the party system and the political parties, including Mapai.

"Panim el Panim" is published by a group in which Mr. Yitzhak Raphael is believed to exercise control. Mr. Raphael's faction in Hapoel Hamizrahi is opposed to the union with the non-religious labour movements, while Lamifneh, the largest faction of this party, favours such union.

Mr. Ben Gurion denied the authenticity of the "Panim el Panim" interview in a statement given to "Davar" on Friday. From circles close to Mr. Raphael, however, it was hinted that the interview — which Mr. Ben Gurion gave on condition that it was "off the record" — was taken down in shorthand.

Contractor Finishing Rooms Built Without Licence

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Mr. Aharon Lipshitz, a Jerusalem contractor, is now putting the finishing touches on two rooms built without a licence on the ground floor of the Hotel Efrat building in the Kiryat Shmuel quarter of Jerusalem. *The Jerusalem Post* learns.

This fact is known to the Jerusalem Municipality, for it has filed a suit against Mr. Lipshitz and Mr. Ya'acov Spector, proprietor of the hotel which occupies one floor of the four-storey building. The trial is to begin on January 2.

Similar trials have lasted for two months. After the decision is given, appeals are made to the District Court. Appeals of this kind — of a criminal nature — are generally heard within three months of submission.

This gives Mr. Lipshitz five months to finish the rooms and to sell them. If the Municipal Court orders the destruction of the rooms, and the District Court upholds this decision, the buyer can recover his loss only through a civil suit which can drag on for years.

Two other suits are to be brought against Mr. Spector on January 2. The first charges that, between November 4, 1952 and February 2, 1954, together with Mr. Benzion Baksi, he built an illegal room on the ground floor.

Second Suit

The second states that Mr. Spector violated several provisions of his original building licence: he did not build a cesspit or septic tank; he did not build a water cistern; he did not construct a roof over the water tanks on the roof, nor did he build a railing around the edges of the roof.

Mr. Lipshitz and Mr. Spector, together with Mr. Shaul Brinker, who has since sold out all his rights in the building, constructed the building without any sewage facilities, connecting it "provisionally" to nearby Beit Roth. The cesspit of this small house could not absorb ten times the water it was built to contain, and for the past year, sewage water has been flowing freely from it through Kiryat Shmuel.

The trial of Mr. Spector and Mr. Lipshitz, as well as all the householders who bought their apartments from the contractors who reportedly guaranteed that the house met "all the sanitary requirements" of the Municipality, is continuing before Magistrate Meir Mureisano in the Municipal Court on charges of not remedying the overflowing cesspit.

At a session early this week, all sides agreed in principle to advance funds to solve the problem immediately and then to decide, in a civil suit or through arbitration, who should pay and what amounts would be paid. This preserves the householders' right to sue the contractors while removing the nuisance of which they are the worst sufferers. This solution was proposed by Mr. Murciano who is also to decide on Thursday what sum each of the participants is to pay pending final legal finding in a civil suit.

Knesset Regulates Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages

The Knesset last night approved an amendment to the law regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Applicants for licences will no longer be required to insert notices to that effect in newspapers. Instead, they will have to display on the premises for a period of 28 days before the opening of business, a copy of the decision of the local council granting the licence.

BANK FORMALLY OPENED

The Halvaa Vehisahon Bank on Rehov Ben Yehuda in Jerusalem was formally opened yesterday at a ceremony attended by Mayor Y. Kariv, Government officials and members of the Jerusalem community.

'NO ORANGES IN ISRAEL'

The Amman "El Bilad" interviewed some of the Christmas pilgrims from Israel, with surprising results, if the paper is to be credited. An unidentified "old man" told the paper that there was no fruit to be had in the whole of Israel. Bananas cost IL.19 a kilo and no oranges were on the market as all were being exported. In all Jaffa, the man declared, there were no Jaffa fish and Jaffa oranges.

The pilgrims cried and wept as they prepared to cross back from Jordan, the paper concluded.

Pilgrims Come In, Prices Go Up

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Shops in the bazaars of the Old City of Jerusalem were empty on Sunday night and the shopkeepers were looking extremely satisfied, as the last of the pilgrims from Israel trouped back to Mandelbaum Gate, a returning resident told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Almost all the shopping was done by Israel Christians, who streamed into the bazaars where the prices rose automatically as soon as the first of them appeared.

The pilgrims described the arrangements for their passage as "admirably conceived," but unfortunately not implemented. Numbers were issued the day before the crossing but the following day absolutely no heed was paid to them. Unlike previous years, the Jordan border guards made no difficulties for returning residents taking food and other goods with them.

Haifa Said Remiss In Slum Clearance

Jerusalem Post Bureau

HAIFA, Monday. — "The Municipality intends spending IL.15,000 on the cages in the Zoo, IL.50,000 on flats for writers and other large sums for public buildings, but not a pruta is allocated to wipe out the city slums," Dr. G. Kaminka (Progressive), told the Town Council tonight during discussions on the Development Budget. Although he had nothing against this outlay in principle, he thought the elimination of the slums should be the Municipality's primary object.

Dr. Kaminka also stated that businessmen were moving to Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan because the Municipality's policy did not encourage economic development. In Kiryat Haim, which is to get much of the Development Budget money, there was no place for the middle classes, and no opportunity for the establishment of shops, workshops and free enterprises, he said.

Mr. Meshulah (General Zionist) said that instead of developing, the town was going in the opposite direction. He wished to see the establishment of a city fire brigade station included in the Development Budget. He also thought that too much was being allocated to Kiryat Haim at Haifa's expense. "What have we to show tourists?" he asked. He pressed for the beautification of Bat Galim and Mt. Carmel.

It was unanimously decided to make veteran residents who had lived in the city for 50 years honorary citizens at a ceremony next Independence Day.

The Municipality has acquired the annexe to the Windsor Hotel which will be turned into a school, thus eliminating the second shift in the western part of the city. For the present, nine classes will be held in the building, which cost IL.100,000.

Beth Shemesh Children Celebrate Hanukka

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Maccabean fervour filled all hearts at Beth Shemesh last night when all the children of this new town crowded into the canteen hall of the Shimshon Cement Factory, in the Jerusalem Corridor, for a rousing Hanukka party.

Welcomed by the newly appointed Mayor of this township, Mr. Menachem Neuman, the children put on a variety of skits, short plays, all in keeping with the season, as well as an exhibition of gymnastics, a boxing match between two of the very young who had all the mannerisms of the boxing ring, and group singing.

This year's programme showed decided improvement in both planning and execution over previous efforts. Cooperating to make the occasion a success were the two schools, Gadna and the Youth Centre.

Technical aid was given by the Government Information Services and the Army (an Army accordionist also led the community singing and accompanied the dances). Sports equipment, which figured prominently in the celebration, was given to the Beth Shemesh Youth Centre by the Palestine Economic Corporation through *The Jerusalem Post*-Sa'ad Annual Toy Fund.

MOSLEM YOUTHS TO INAUGURATE CONGRESS

The first World Moslem Youth Congress will be inaugurated in Karachi, Pakistan, next month, according to the Jordan paper, "El Bilad," yesterday.

It said that the Congress will have the full support of all heads of Arab states, Turkey, Iran, and Indonesia will also send representatives while 52 Egyptian university students who will represent their country, have left for Karachi.

All Round Rise In Fruit Crops

A substantial increase in fruit crops is reported in a statement issued yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The banana crop during the last Jewish year was 14,000 tons, 4,000 more than in the previous year. Most of the yield was sold on the local market but trial consignments of 1,250 tons were exported.

Plums during the same period grossed 5,500 tons; more than double that of the previous year.

Vineyards, too, reported an excellent harvest, including 12,500 tons of grapes for eating and almost the same amount for wine. In the previous year there were only 2,700 tons of grapes for eating and 9,500 tons for the wine cellars. Hopes are high for a further expansion in the coming years.

Peaches rose by fifty per cent to 150 tons, and the area under peach cultivation will be greatly expanded.

The production of apricots also rose from 300 to 500 tons, while apples showed a slight decline from 3,000 to 2,500 tons.

Finally, a large increase is reported in the output of dates and other subtropical fruits.

MAPAM ELECTION CAMPAIGN

HADERA, Monday. — The Executive Committee of Hashomer Hatza'ir met in Kibbutz Ma'abarot yesterday to hear the Secretary General of Mapam, Mr. Meir Ya'ari, report on the Party's elections preparations. Mr. Nathan Pelled, the Secretary of Kibbutz Arzi, told the Committee that the movement had gained 1,000 new members in the past year. Only three per cent of their members left during the year, as compared with nine per cent five years ago.

PLAN FOR MIGDAL ASHKELON APPROVED

MIGDAL ASHKELON, Monday. — A master plan for this area, which envisages a population of 40,000 living in five self-contained neighbourhoods, was approved last night by the Ashkelon Town Planning Committee. Each of these centres is to be on the pattern of Afridar's "New Ashkelon." The meeting was attended by the District Representative Mr. Y. Vardimon.

PERSIAN NEWCOMERS

LYDDA AIRPORT, Monday. — A group of 89 Persian immigrants arrived here last night by Sabena. They were immediately taken to Kubeiba, near Rehovot, where wooden huts have been prepared for them. Some of the arrivals had previously returned to Persia. Twelve of them joined relatives in various parts of the country. *(Itim)*

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POLICE CHASE BURGLARS THROUGH HAIFA STREETS

Jerusalem Post Bureau

HAIFA, Monday. — Following an extended chase through the narrow streets of the Wadi Nisnas area here and an exchange of shots, three persons were arrested in the early hours of this morning on suspicion of being involved in an organized series of burglaries in various parts of the city.

Three other habitual burglars were taken into custody earlier yesterday.

This followed an extensive and thorough campaign by the Haifa Police to find those responsible for carrying out a number of burglaries in the Wadi Salib area, including one at a textile shop which netted the gang a haul valued at several thousands of pounds.

The police made the three arrests last night after following two men who were carrying a sack to a house in Wadi Nisnas. When the police confronted them at the door, one broke away and was caught after a chase through the narrow streets and an exchange of fire. The sack was found to contain articles stolen from a shop in Wadi Salib, and a search of the house uncovered more goods. The owner of the house was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property.

All three men arrested during the day had served prison terms for house-breaking, and one of them admitted having carried out 18 burglaries in shops and warehouses near the Port. The police believe that the six men already arrested belong to two of three gangs operating throughout the country.

Insurers Claim £35,000 From Haifa Bodies

Jerusalem Post Bureau

HAIFA, Monday. — A claim for damages totalling more than IL.35,000 has been filed in the Haifa District Court by a German insurance company against the United Port Services, Savar, Shahav, Port contractors, and the Officer in charge of a Port lighter for the loss of Reparations goods a year ago, when the lighter sank in the Port while unloading the s.s. Tsfonit.

The insurance company had already paid out part of the value of the goods on condition that the recipient company which includes the Shlumim Corporation, Mekorot Water Company and the Nesher Beer Company participate in the legal action against the Port contractors. The claimants charged that the goods were loaded on the lighter in a negligent manner.

Part of the sunken merchandise had been recovered by divers and claimants stated that the Port authority had charged them IL.9,000 for the services of the diving operation.

'More Horses Should Be Bred Here'

ACRE, Monday. — More horses should be bred in Israel to make the country independent of the import of draught animals, a gathering of farmers, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, of the Police and of farmers' organizations resolved here today at a national conference called to establish a national association of horse and mule breeders.

Imported work horses, experts reported, were unsuited to the country's climate.

A 20-man public committee was formed to undertake the preparatory work. The new association is to arrange courses of instruction in the breeding and care of horses and will propagate the idea of horse breeding and its possibilities among the farmers.

FRANCE

(Continued from Page 1)

Such talks could only be undertaken and succeed if the West had first clearly affirmed its own unity.

He knew of no alternative to the Paris agreements. New meetings with Britain and America on this subject were no longer possible.

France was not in a position to oppose German rearmament. The question was only under what conditions of control and guarantee it should take place, M. Mendes-France declared.

Crowds, believed to be the largest to gather before the Assembly in the life of the Fourth Republic, lined the pavements down the long block leading along the quai to the Quai d'Orsay Foreign Office.

Some, in response to repeated Communist calls since Saturday, carried banners reading "Remember Chateau-Briant, Auschwitz, Oradour." *(Reuter, UP)*

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50% Farm School Grads To Establish New Villages

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Of the 4,730 young persons who this year are being trained in 24 agricultural trade schools, 50 per cent will found new settlements on completion of their training, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Yosef Efrati said at a meeting of teachers in farm schools at Mikve Yisrael tonight. Some 4,700 pupils more are learning agricultural trades in Youth Aliya institutions and schools in various settlements.

An innovation in agricultural training is the scheme announced by the Deputy Minister, whereby young people can get farm schooling gratis for two months a year, over a period of three years.

Mrs. Rachel Ben-Zvi, who opened the meeting, recalled the early days of the Second Aliya and described the progress which had been made in farm training since then. She paid tribute to Mr. Eliahu Krause who said that in his 40 years at Mikve Yisrael, 4,000 trainees had passed through his hands. She revealed that Baron James de Rothschild had recently sent a contribution of IL.15,000 towards the IL.200,000 for stipends to pupils of agricultural trade schools this year.

A spirited criticism of veteran settlers who were not educating their children towards a pioneering life in agriculture was made by Mr. Yosef Shapiro of the Agricultural Workers Union.

GERSTENKORN RESIGNS

RAMAT GAN, Monday. — Rabbi Itzhak Gerstenkorn, former Mayor of B'nei Brak, has tendered his resignation from the Town Council.

Cables in Brief

RUMANIA. — Rationing in Rumania was abolished from Sunday, Bucharest radio announced. For a number of products such as petrol, clothing, footwear prices have been cut by 20 to 27 per cent.

DEATHS. — At least 483 accidental deaths were known to have place in the U.S. during the two-day Christmas weekend ending at midnight on Sunday.

DISPUTE. — Six persons were killed and seven injured, two of them seriously, when police fired yesterday to disperse a crowd which raided a landowner's house in Valod, a village 65 kms. from Surat, Bombay State.

MISSION.—An Indian economic mission to the Arab countries will arrive in Amman for talks with the Jordan Government this week-end.

ENVOY. — M. Pierre Palaire has been appointed French Ambassador to Jordan.

PRESENTS. — Two spotted deer, two cranes and 200 goldfish arrived in Hong Kong yesterday by train from Canton as a birthday present to Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India from the Prime Minister of China, Mr. Chou En-lai.

RECORD. — Clyde shipyards broke all postwar production records in 1954 by building 65 ships valued at 148m., it was officially announced in Glasgow today.

PRODUCTION. — Soviet factories have produced 39 per cent more consumer goods this year than in 1950 the Deputy Minister of the Consumer Goods Industry, Mr. Nikolai M. Mirotvortsev, said in an article in "Izvestia" the Soviet Government newspaper yesterday.

US Airlines May Not Operate in India

NEW DELHI, Monday (Reuter). — American airliners will not pick up passengers in India after January 15 if India and the U.S. fail to conclude a few air agreement, it was learned here today.

India has been complaining that two American firms, Pan-American and Transworld Airlines, are making serious inroads into legitimate traffic of Air India International, the government-owned line. The U.S. is understood to have asked that the existing agreement signed in 1946 be extended pending a satisfactory conclusion of negotiations.

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Economic News from Abroad

Wheat Average Steady

● Total world production of wheat and rye for 1954-55 has been estimated at 248 million tons, somewhat less than in the past two seasons but well above the 1945-49 average of 218 million tons. Wheat accounts for 63 per cent of total bread grain production.

Fibre from Groundnuts

● British production capacity of artificial fibres, other than rayon, will expand from the present 48 million lbs. per annum to 75 million lbs. by 1956. Of this, over 40 million lbs. will be nylon, some 22 million lbs. Ardil (developed by ICI from groundnut meal) and about 12 million, Teryline.

German Banks to Merge

● A giant merger of West German banks next year is expected to lead to the re-establishment of the pre-war "Big Three" pattern: Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and Commerzbank. The Deutsche Bank will handle about 40 per cent of all deposits.

N.Z. Springs for Heavy Water

● A £10 million company is to be formed by Britain and New Zealand to utilize steam from New Zealand's thermal springs to produce heavy water for use in nuclear reactors. The plant will include a standard 60,000 kw. generator and a heavy water plant comparable in size to a modern oil refinery. Heavy water costs about £75,000 per ton at present.

Tramp Trade Recovers

● Tramp shipping freight rates have now nearly regained levels reached at the end of the "Korean boom" two year ago. This renewed activity comes mainly from increased grain exports to Central Europe, India and Turkey, and coincides with increased shipments of U.S. coal to Europe. The boom is expected to continue at least for some months.

Brazil's Inflation Continues

● Hopes for an early improvement of Brazil's currency are fading as no vigorous economic measures have been introduced to curb domestic inflation and no progress has been shown in the proposed large-scale American investment.

Labrador Electric Scheme

● A hydro-electric project which would cost in its first phase between $150 million is being considered by the British Newfoundland Corporation, headed by N.M. Rothschild and Sons. Cheap power derived from harnessing the Grand Falls is to be used mainly for mining development and for industrial plants which businessmen are to be persuaded to establish in Labrador.

Finns Import Russian Cars

● The latest Russo-Finnish agreement provides for Finland to import from Russia, in the five years beginning from 1956, between 4,370 and 5,650 new cars and between 1,600 and 2,900 commercial vehicles or chassis per year. The total value of Finnish imports of motor vehicles and parts will amount to £32m. in 1954, mostly through bilateral trade agreements.

S.A. Railways Expanding

● A large-scale expansion programme has been announced by the South African Railways Administration in order to increase railway capacity in proportion to the rapidly growing traffic, particularly the increasing shipments of chrome ore, manganese and coal for export. Some £15 million will be spent on the construction of new lines in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

Liquid Milk Without Powder As Supplies Rise

Jerusalem Post Reporter

SPREADING the liquid milk supply by the addition of milk powder was discontinued this month instead of in February because of increased milk production, and will scarcely be necessary again next year. Recent figures show that the milk output continues to rise rapidly despite all the gloomy prophecies about the imminent decline of the dairy industry.

In September last, the total quantity of cow's milk marketed by regular trade channels was 7.34m. litres, i.e., 16 per cent more than the previous year. In October, Tnuva reported a rise of over 18 per cent compared with the corresponding month in 1953, and in November the increase was 20 per cent. Though in the private dairies the output increased by only half the percentage reported by Tnuva, this cannot influence the overall picture very considerably as they account for only a quarter of the milk supply. Total milk deliveries in 1954 may be estimated at about 162 million litres (compared with 88m. in 1953) and total production at over 130m. litres.

Increase in Cows

Livestock statistics also do not bear out the pessimistic prognosis about the dairy industry. The number of milk cows in Jewish farms rose to 39,140 in September last, i.e., eight per cent more than a year ago, compared with a 6.4 per cent rise in the previous year. At the same time the number of calves rose by 15 per cent, compared with 11 per cent in the year ending September 1953. This increase has taken place parallel with the continuous process of selection, which has led to the weeding-out of cows with poor yields, for the average yield seems to have risen by over five per cent. This has certainly been a major factor in improving the earning capacity of the dairy branch in our farms, though farmers claim that this increase has been offset to a considerable extent by higher costs.

In view of the consistently increasing supply, the possibility of milk surpluses during the peak spring season is already causing concern to farmers, particularly as the sale of cheap American butter and cheese has recently been resumed. Sales of liquid milk also continue to decline and *leben*iya seems to be out of favour with many consumers. On the other hand, there is a brisk demand for all kinds of cheese. The income of Tnuva's dairy department in October rose by 31 per cent compared with the same month a year ago.

CONSUMPTION OF POWER DOUBLED

Consumption of electric current in September-October this year was over 30 per cent higher than in the same period in 1953. The greatest increase (approximately 25 per cent) was in the use of current for "other purposes" including domestic lighting and appliances, while an increase of about 15 per cent was registered in industrial consumption. The use of electric current for irrigation purposes rose by less than 10 per cent, compared with a 30 per cent rise last year.

Total sales of current during 1954 presumably will top 900m. kwh., compared with 750m. kwh. in 1953 and 464m. in 1950. Thus, consumption will have doubled during the past four years.

U.S. TO INVITE FOREIGN BIDS

A new step against economic isolationism in the U.S. has been taken by President Eisenhower who has ordered Government Departments to reject domestic bids as "unreasonable" if they are between six and ten per cent higher than foreign tenders. This will make it easier for foreign firms to win U.S. Government contracts as previously, American firms were awarded the contracts if their bids were less than 35 per cent higher than those received from abroad.

However, too low foreign bids will be rejected in future if it is necessary to protect producers in depressed areas of the U.S. or if heads of government agencies think it justified for security reasons or because of the national interest in general.

LESS CITRUS TO INDUSTRY

THE reduced quantity of the citrus crop and of culled fruit expected this year is making itself felt in the now quieter negotiations between the Citrus Marketing Board and the citrus products industry over the price of fruit delivered to factories. In fact, deliveries have begun before the actual price has been fixed. Total quantity of the shamouty culls to be delivered for processing has been estimated at less than 50,000 tons this year, compared with the peak of 78,000 tons last season. Grapefruit deliveries will also amount to only 5,000 tons. It is estimated, slightly more than half the quantity of last season.

The Citrus Marketing Board is therefore insisting on the same prices as last year, i.e. IL.32.75 per ton of fruit delivered for production of concentrated juice and IL.35 for fruit processed for local consumption. The industry, however, is demanding a reduction of prices, pointing to the five to ten per cent lower prices it got from the British Food Ministry and to the big stock of juice it is still carrying from last season. The unsold quantity amounts to some 18,000 tons, it is learned.

Full Vegetable Supply Assured

Jerusalem Post Reporter

VEGETABLE areas, mainly those sown with potatoes, tomatoes and carrots, expanded by 15 per cent compared with the winter season of 1953, Tnuva reports, and abundant supplies on the market appear to be fairly assured for the next few months. In November, tomato deliveries were already 40 per cent more than in November 1953, while the supply of carrots rose by over 60 per cent, that of sugar beet doubled and that of spring onions jumped from 60 to 400 tons. On the other hand, the supply of cucumbers dropped because of damage by pests in Lower Galilee, which is the main source of supply at this season, and deliveries of cauliflower also decreased. The total quantity of vegetables marketed by Tnuva last month was 45 per cent more than in November 1953.

Considerable amounts of vegetables, including 20 per cent of the tomatoes, had to be sold to processing and canning factories, but generally the prices fetched were fairly good.

Potato Sales Up

Of particular interest is the greatly increased consumption of potatoes due to their price being fixed by subsidies at a rather low level; in November, 3,800 tons of potatoes were sold compared with 1,250 tons sold in November of the previous year. It is understood that the stocks still left in cold storage (4,500 tons) are sufficient only for the first few days of January, after which the market will be clear for the autumn crop.

Stock and Commodities

Tel Aviv Firm Following General Rally

THE general rallying of the market which began last week continued. Although rises in government bonds and other securities were small, a general marked interest in all securities was felt. The prices of government loans, including Tavei Dollar, rose and fluctuation during the week showed the following overall advances: Tavei Dollar advanced 10 points, Milve Milhams by 1 point and Stock "B" by half a point. Among industrials, demand was mainly for Ata and Kurdaneh shares, Africa-Pal-Investment shares closed firmer, and after touching 101%, advanced again to 107%. The week's feature was the distribution by Enterprises of Assis & Bejarano Bros. of 4¼% in bonus shares, raising prices by 1 point from 157% to 158%, an overall rise of 8 points. Milwe Hovah was earlier quoted at 52%.

New York Steady after Hesitation

DOW Jones Index for 20 rails reached a new 1954 peak at 144.76, while for 30 industrials the index was 397.15. Recent gloomy comparisons with the situation preceding the 1929 crash seem out of place in view of the fact that bull transactions on Wall Street are executed today on a 50% cash margin against a background of sound business. The economic atmosphere in the U.S. is so buoyant that at the beginning of the month, the Federal Reserve, acting through its Open Market Committee, was making an almost imperceptible shift away from its year-old policy of "active ease" towards an ever so gentle tightening of credit.

London Rallies after Depression

THE threat of a rail strike early in 1955, combined with the seasonal demand for money and an inclination towards a tightening of credit in New York, caused a partly widespread fall in markets during the middle of the week, which was later followed by a firmer tendency. Financial Times stock index for Industrials advanced from 179.6 on Wednesday to 180.1 on Thursday, and a general recovery was felt in funds as well as in equities and mining.

Gold Unchanged

The Paris gold market was dead over the Christmas holidays. The Assembly's vote against the Paris Treaties made no impression and turnover was restricted. Only 150 lots changed hands. Other turnover features were: 10,000 Napoleons, 7,500 Sovereigns, 20,000 Eagles. With the weaker trend in sterling, the price of gold in London at mid-week rose by 11d. to 251/5d. per fine ounce.

Rubber and Metals Advance

Commodities featured a marked rise in rubber and metals. Financial Times Commodity Index was 90.53. Tin and copper rose, lead moved higher, and zinc trading showed much activity. Higher prices were quoted also at the London rubber exchange. In the course of this year, linseed oil for paint materials showed a marked rise, and recently 17,000 tons of this oil were sold by the U.S. to the U.K. at a price equivalent to around £90 a ton, duty paid, landed London.

By arrangement with I.L. Feuchtwanger Bank Ltd.

Tel Aviv Stock Market

DEC. 27	Rise or Fall
Pop. Loans	
1949/50 (IL.10) 98¾	—
2½% Tavei Dollar x)y) 1277	—5
2½% Tavei Dollar x)z) 1277	—5
3½% Govt. Bds. (large) 97¼	+¼
4% Reg. Sterling "A" 94	+¼
4% Reg. Sterling "B" 93	+¼
Pal. Beaver Bds. Ser. 3 72¾	+¼
Bk. Le Leumi ord. sh. 253	—
A.P.H. Investm.	
4% debs. 50/70 c) 96¼	—
ord. sh. "B" 1164	+¼
Gazit ord. sh. "B" 1064	—
Ellern's Inv. ord. "B" 158	—
P.E.C. Inv. ord. "B" sh. 1065	—
Gen. Mortg. Bk. ord. sh. 77¼	—
Bizur 4% debs. 56/65 c) 53	—
Nir 4% Debs. (bear.) c) 79½	—
5% pref. sh. c) 69½	—
Pass 4% debs. 40/64 reg 86¼	—
"Inva" 5% debs. 83¼	—
I.L.D.C. ord. sh. reg. c) 429½	—½
5% debs. c) 88	—
Afr. Pal. Inv., ord. sh. 107	—
Pal. Potash 6% pref. sh. 99¾	+¼
Rassco 6% pref. ord sh. 347	+¼
"A" ord. shares 154	—½
Pal. Elec. ord. sh. (Isr. —	—
Pal. Elec. ord. sh. (Ldn —	—
Jer. Elec. Corp. ord. sh. —	—
Mekoroth pref. sh. b) 64½	+½
Ata ord. "B" sh. 139½	—¼
6-8% conv. debs. c) 97½	+½
"Hurdaneh" ord. "B" sh. 143¼	—
7% conv. debs. 59/64 c) 102	—
Moller-Bec ord sh. reg x 930	—10
Pal-Brewery 9% con. sh. c) 97	—
Assis Bejarano "B" sh. 158	—
"Tova" ord. sh. 118½	—
Nesher 6% debs. "A" 114	—
6% debs. "B" 134	—
Pal. Cold. St. 7% debs. c) 140	—
ord. sh. reg. c)d) 212	+1
Pal. Constr. Tr. 8% debs. a) 92½	+1

Notes: a) purchasing price; b) selling price; c) ex-coupons; d) ex-right; e) half div.; x) pruto; y) coupons Dec. 15, 1954; z) coupons June 15, 1955.

Turkey Feels Coal Shortage

ANKARA, (PNS)—THE speed of Turkey's industrial expansion, has no better proof than the worrisome coal shortage facing the country as the winter of 1955 sets in.

In 1950, an international survey group estimated that by 1960 Turkey would need at the most six million tons of coal per year—for both internal consumption and export. The United States ECA mining mission accordingly laid plans with the Turkish Government to reach this goal.

In 1952, a small amount of coal was still being exported. Indeed, until the middle of 1953, the original plans were considered adequate. But then Turkey's ambitious industrial plans boomed beyond fondest dreams. For example, 20 new cement plants were marked out for early construction. Blast furnace consumption of coke doubled. Railway traffic multiplied twice with the increased agricultural production. Steel mills began operating. Other factories making sugar, textiles, paper, fertilizers, rubber and plastic fibres got under way.

Prices Controlled

Although coal production during 1954 will reach the 4m.-ton mark, coal use is already on a mine-to-furnace basis. Some authorities suggest that even householders may have to bank their fires more than usual this winter. Prices will not rise, however, since the Government keeps strict control over the commodity.

Fortunately, Turkey has known coal reserves estimated to last for a century. Only two basins are now being exploited. One of these, a bituminous area, is near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak. The other, yielding lignite, is located in western Anatolia near Bergama. The main obstacle to the immediate opening of new basins is the scarcity of capital, particularly the shortage of foreign exchange to purchase the various types of machinery necessary for coal mining.

Coal, however, is not the only potential source of power for Turkey. Over a dozen hydro-electric projects now under way will double the supply of electricity. Oil exploration, at present incomplete, may bring Turkey additional power riches.

HAMASHBIR HOLDS TO LOW PROFIT LINE

THE shops of Hamashbir, the Histadrut cooperative marketing agency, worked on a profit margin of 20%, as compared with the 30-40% customary in private trade, said Mr. R. Marinow at a meeting in Tel Aviv on Tuesday of the Council of Hamashbir. Mr. Ya'acov Efter, the managing director, declared that Hamashbir had saved its member-customers (settlements and individuals) millions of pounds, and it would continue to work for the lowering of trading profits. Turnover in the current year was about IL.70 million, as compared with IL.50 million last year.

Steps were being taken, the Council was informed, to open shops of Hamashbir Latzarkhan, the retailing branch, in all workers' quarters. Opposition was expressed to the opening of government shops so long as full use was not being made of Hamashbir's facilities.

S. & K. Aloschi

Foreign Trade Consultants

262 Reh. Hayarkon, Tel Aviv. Tel.25985.

PIA

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Entrance Price

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Ex 10% Interim Dividend 1954

P.O.B. 1234 JERUSALEM

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New Settlements Need Subsidies, Work Days

By Our Economic Editor

CROPS on half of the cultivated area in new settlements still cared for by the Jewish Agency are subsidised. They are mainly vegetables and potatoes. For the current winter season, subsidies will be paid by the Minimum Prices Fund for tomatoes, beans, carrots, garlic, potatoes, and sugar beet, but subsidies for cabbage and cauliflower have been limited to an area of 2,400 dunams in the poorest settlements, in order to prevent overproduction. Planning authorities hope that subsidies and increased irrigation facilities will induce settlers to expand their vegetable cultivation by almost 50 per cent compared with the past winter season. Additional subsidies are paid to offset the transport expenses of remote settlements in the Negev and in Upper Galilee, and also the cost of sorting the produce according to Tnuva's requirements.

Vegetables and potatoes are grown on almost a quarter of all the irrigated land in new communal settlements and on 44 per cent in the smallholders' settlements. Green fodder occupies about 22 per cent, but the dairy branch is still rather undeveloped. In the smallholder settlements, 40 per cent of the farmers still have no cows and only a minority have the three head of cattle necessary to put this branch on a sound basis. The growing of sugar beet has been restricted because of the delay in erecting a sugar factory. The problem of finding suitable crops for irrigated areas was not so urgent, however, because in most cases these exceed 5-10 dunams per farm unit, and 28 per cent of the farms (mostly in the Negev and in the hill region) did not even have five dunams each.

Wheat Extended

On non-irrigated lands, wheat growing has been extended at the expense of barley which, however, still occupies first place. On the other hand, considerable tracts have been planted with citrus, grapes and deciduous fruits, but much less than was envisaged in original settlement plans.

The total number of new settlements is now 181, which included in September last 21,350 farm units, 5,720 of which were in communal settlements and the rest in smallholder and middle-class settlements. Almost 10,000 farming families will however, have to be added, in order to bring these settlements to the minimum size contemplated by the agricultural planners. The deficiency is 20 per cent (1,500 families) in smallholder villages, 37 per cent (600 families) in middle-class settlements and 40 per cent in communal settlements (11,000 members). In the smallholder settlements, 2,170 houses were ready awaiting newcomers, some months ago, but a number of them have since been occupied by new immigrants from North Africa.

Despite the agricultural progress achieved, most farmers are still unable to eke out their existence by farm work and have to be assisted with labour provided by various Development projects. The problem is most acute in the smallholder settlements where outside labour will have to provide the settlers with almost a third of their minimum income during this winter season, calculated at 18 work days per month. Altogether, about 500,000 work days will have to be supplied, according to a preliminary estimate of the Joint Agricultural Planning Centre.

6,000 TONS THROUGH HAIFA

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Some 5,942 tons of exports, comprising 62 products shipped to 21 different countries, were loaded at Haifa Port during the past week. Turkey returned to first place on the list of customers with a total of 3,621 tons while Great Britain was second with 1,358 tons.

Topping the list of exports loaded at the Port was a consignment of 1,070 tons of cement for Turkey, followed by 1,200 tons of alkalis for England. Some 544 tons of superphosphates were shipped to Cyprus, 183 tons of rolled steel to Turkey, 155 tons of glass to Turkey and the U.S., 82 tons of steel wire to Turkey, 71 tons of bananas to the U.S.S.R. and Greece, 59 tons of tires to Yugoslavia and Nigeria, 42 tons of paints to Turkey and Yugoslavia, 33 tons of eggs to Italy, 30 tons of groundnuts to England and Holland, 29 tons of sulphuric acid to Cyprus and 25 tons of sulphates to Turkey.

Goods loaded in smaller quantities included sewing machines, motor cars, brushes, books, antibiotics, chocolates and sweets, cosmetics, textiles, pencils, electrical equipment, rubber products and plywood.

Company Report

Rassco's Ramified Activity

WHEN the Rassco company was founded over 20 years ago, the very idea of middle-class settlement was rather completely unprovided for or was considered discredited and it needed the passing of special resolutions by the Zionist Congress in order to give the new venture a start. With the growing influx of private capital and of professional elements from Western Europe, a rapid transformation has, however, taken place in the local economy and possibilities have been created for a new type of agricultural settlements. Along with other factors, Rassco has succeeded in developing villages based on full irrigation and the growing of selected high-income products, and combining private enterprise with cooperation in credit, marketing and purchase of materials on the lines of Western models. Careful agricultural planning, ample financial facilities and central organizational backing by Rassco helped these settlements to weather many setbacks, and by now most of them have attained a fairly high level of economic and social stability. So far, 26 rural settlements have been established which account for about ten per cent of the country's vegetable and poultry output. In addition, the company has developed large-scale housing and building activity.

Through its subsidiaries, it engages in several commercial and industrial ventures, and of late it is endeavouring to attract private investments from abroad for citrus groves, mixed farms and housing projects.

Building Projects

An approximate summary of the company's building activities during the past two years (ending March 1954) including estimates for the current year, is given by the following figures:

RASSCO'S BUILDING ACTIVITY

	1952/53	1953/54	1954/55*
Houses in agricultural settlements	351	505	500*
New immigrants' dwellings	959	670	500*
Popular Housing flats	179	367	650*
New immigrants' quarters with financial assistance from abroad	200	196	130*
Unsubsidized private housing	324	344	200*
Totals	2,289	1,760	1,970*

* Estimate

The general decline of building activity in recent years has thus affected Rassco only to a slight extent, partly because of the long waiting list it accumulated in the previous period, but in the main because the decrease in private housing has been largely compensated by contracting for the large public housing schemes. Rural settlement also proceeded on an even keel. Housing projects financed by semi-public funds from abroad (the "Landsmannschaften" groups organized in the U.S.) considerably decreased in recent years but the company succeeded in mobilizing abroad bigger funds for the establishment of public institutions connected with large-scale building projects.

In 1952/53, about IL.1.25m. were invested under this heading, and last year, IL.2m. Of the latter, IL. 600,000 was allocated for the Bar-Ilan religious university in B'nei Brak, IL.500,000 for the Elders' Home in Ramat Gan, and large amounts for the Louise Waterman-Wise Youth Hostel and the B'nei-Brith Children's Home in Jerusalem, as well as the Abbs Silver agricultural school, etc. The total value of Rassco's building and agricultural projects reached IL.14-15m. last year, of which approximately one half was from the public housing schemes, largely financed by the Government's Development Budget and the Jewish Agency. Rural settlement (which also comprises general agricultural development) accounted for another IL.4m.

In addition to long-term public loans, the company was instrumental in securing medium-term loans from various sources while its own means were mainly used as working capital and for interim financing. A new venture to be started shortly by a Rassco subsidiary is a housing project for letting without key money. Another project which is to be launched in the near future is the establishment of a commercial and tourist centre in Tiberias.

Rassco's Subsidiaries

Rassco subsidiary and affiliated companies comprise among others three financial agencies abroad (in New York and Zurich) as well as several holding and development companies. The Dirot Am (Rassco Foundation) administers the dwellings built but not yet sold to, or not yet fully paid for by, new immigrants, and now deals with over 3,500 units. Rassco Plantations Ltd. is concerned with the development of citrus groves and orchards of subtropical fruit for foreign investors. The Haspaka company, in which Rassco participates jointly with the agricultural societies affiliated to the Tenne organization, is engaged in importing fodder, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural supplies and last year had a turnover of IL.6m. Paldag Ltd. (turnover IL.550,000) and the Near East Trust Co. (turnover IL.2.8m.), deal with the import and wholesale trading of foodstuffs and groceries. Rassco holds 50 per cent of each, the other half being privately owned.

Together with the Manufacturers Association, Rassco founded the Foreign Trade and Supply Company, intended to promote exports mainly on a commission basis and in cooperation with Rassco financial agencies abroad. Its own turnover totalled $400,000 and double that amount in joint transactions with other factors. The latest venture is the Tenne-Noga Dairies Ltd. (owned jointly with a private company) which is now nearing completion in Kfar Shmaryahu, with an investment of IL.1.3m. (including $350,000 in foreign currency) and a final daily capacity of about 40,000 litres of UHT-refined milk. However, no particulars nor any statistical information about these ramified activities are contained in Rassco's annual report. The company has not even bothered to publish a consolidated balance sheet, according to the practice adopted in recent years by much smaller concerns with less public standing.

Assets and Liabilities

In Rassco's own balance sheet at the end of last March, the main item shown on the asset side is "development and settlement work in progress" which rose to IL.7.35m. as against IL.5.61m. a year ago. Of this, "works carried out on account of contracts" earned IL.4m. (against IL.3.84m.). The balance has thus increased by over IL.1.5m. On the other hand, there was a decrease in stocks (IL.0.94m. compared with IL.1.26m. in 1952 at a lower price level) because of the much easier supply situation. Fixed assets — mainly shares in subsidiary companies, offices, equipment and machinery — remained almost unchanged at IL.1.3m. Current assets, however, jumped from IL.1.6m. to IL.3.1m. The bulk of the rise was accounted for by the greater debit balances of settlers and public bodies, mainly Treasury (IL.1.54m. against IL.0.79m.) and by credits extended to subsidiaries.

To finance this development, the company increased its long-term liabilities from IL.1.15m. to IL.1.85m. (mainly by increased borrowing from local banks) and issued new shares to the value of almost IL. 350,000 so that its total share capital and reserves reached IL.1.45m. (IL.1.1m.). The bulk of the new means, however, came from increased current liabilities which rose to IL.4.3m. as compared with IL.3.45m. a year ago. The balance of contracts to be carried out also doubled to IL.1.6m.

Rassco's operating profit (including sundry profits less allocations to hidden reserves) amounted to IL.1.25m. (as against IL.0.86m. in the previous year), out of which IL.0.9m. (IL.0.84m.) went to general expenses and IL.147,000 (IL.80,000) to interest and other financial charges. Out of the net profit totalling IL.178,000 (IL.114,000) a dividend of 11 per cent (including five per cent in bonus shares) will again be distributed to the holders of preferred ordinary shares and four per cent to the Keren Hayesod, the holder of the company's ordinary shares.

Some items from the company's latest balance sheets are given in the table below:

(IL.000) End of March	1953	1953	1954
Capital and reserves	691	1,070	1,421
Debentures and long term loans	1,543	1,625	1,819
Creditors and Credit balances	2,313	3,447	4,063
Land, Development & Building projects (balance)	1,624	2,179	4,009
Building materials	1,239	1,403	1,774
Debtors and Debit balances	1,041	1,368	2,780
Contracts to be carried out	3,661	4,837	7,462
Gross profit	493	864	1,233